CITY HILIGHTS

www.ibcworldnews.com | The Truth Speaks | FIRDAY ▸ MAY 15, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 300 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00 | cityhilights.news@gmail.com

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

Greater Bengaluru Authority

Bengaluru City Corporations

• North • South • East • West • Central

My e-Khata

My Hakku

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
& Bengaluru City Development Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

CAMPAIGN From 16 May, 2026

"Bhoo Guarantee" Scheme - Government's 6th Guarantee for the benefit of landowners in Bengaluru city.

Conversion Campaign from 'B' Khata to 'A' Khata

(Every Saturday at 50 locations (10 each) within the Five City Corporations of Bengaluru)

Guidance Value **5%** Instead **NOW PAY 2% ONLY**

This opportunity is available for **100 days only.** Avail this opportunity.

Convert your 'B' Khata to **'A' Khata**

Bengaluru is recognised as one of the world's leading cities today. Yet for many years, citizens' property records remained in old paper files and manual registers, creating inconvenience and leaving room for fraud and fake documents.

We guarantee that Bengaluru's property records will be digitized and delivered free of cost to citizens' doorsteps.

More than 23 lakh property records across Bengaluru have been scanned, digitized and converted into e-Khata.

Officers of the Greater Bengaluru Authority and Members of the Guarantee Scheme Implementation Committee are delivering these e-Khatas directly to citizens across the city, free of cost.

More than 23+ lakh e-Khata delivered to your Doorstep Free of Cost

For any e-Khata complaints, contact:

For details of Locations of the 'My e-Khata, My Hakku' campaign, contact:

National E-Governance Award (Gold) Winner 2025

'A prelude to a New Era of development in Bengaluru'

e-Khata helpline
94806 83695

KRISTU JAYANTI
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

Under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956

A CMI INSTITUTION | BENGALURU | INDIA

KRISTU JAYANTI (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) AWARDED A++ GRADE BY NAAC WITH CGPA 3.78 OUT OF 4

nirf 2025 34th Rank (College Category)

PROGRAMMES OFFERED

SCHOOL OF COMMERCE, ACCOUNTING & FINANCE

- **M.Com.** Financial Analysis
- **M.Com.** International Taxation & Applied Finance
- **M.Sc.** Economics
- **B.Com.** Bachelor of Commerce
- **B.Com.** Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- **B.Com.** Business Process Management
- **B.Com.** Professional Accounting
- **B.Com.** International Finance and Accounting (ACCA Integrated)
- **B.Com.** Business Analytics
- **B.Com.** Strategic Finance (CMA Integrated)
- **B.Com.** International Business and Finance (CPA Integrated)
- **B.Com.** Investment Banking
- **B.Com.** Blockchain & Fintech
- **B.Com.** Enterprise Resource Management (SAP Integrated)
- **B.Com.** Banking, Financial Services and Insurance
- **B.Sc.** Applied Economics

INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

- **MBA** Master of Business Administration
- **MBA** International Finance
- **MBA** Business Analytics
- **MBA** Fintech
- **MBA** International Business
- **MBA** Strategic Finance

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

- **BBA** Bachelor of Business Administration
- **BBA** Business Analytics
- **BBA** Aviation Management
- **BBA** Branding & Advertising
- **BBA** International Business
- **BBA** Fintech and Banking
- **BBA** Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
- **BBA** Enterprise Resource Management (SAP Integrated)
- **BBA** Healthcare Management
- **Postgraduate Diploma** in Banking and Finance
- **Postgraduate Diploma** in Business Administration

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

- **MA** English Literature
- **MA** Media & Communication
- **MA** Public Policy and International Relations
- **M.Sc.** Psychology
- **M.Sc.** Counselling Psychology
- **M.Sc.** Clinical Psychology
- **M.Sc.** Human Resource Development Psychology
- **MSW** Master of Social Work
- **BA** English Literature
- **BA** Media & Communication
- **B.Sc.** Visual Communication
- **B.Sc.** Psychology
- **BA** History & Political Science
- **BA** Psychology & English Literature
- **BA** Political Science & Sociology
- 4 year **Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)***

SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL & FORENSIC SCIENCES

- **M.Sc.** Biotechnology
- **M.Sc.** Microbiology
- **M.Sc.** Biochemistry
- **M.Sc.** Forensic Science
- **M.Sc.** Bioinformatics
- **M.Sc.** Digital Forensics & Information Security
- **B.Sc.** Forensic Science
- **B.Sc.** Biotechnology & Genetics
- **B.Sc.** Microbiology & Genetics
- **B.Sc.** Biotechnology & Biochemistry
- **B.Sc.** Biotechnology & Botany
- **B.Sc.** Forensic Science & Biotechnology
- **B.Sc.** Forensic Science & Biochemistry
- **B.Sc.** Forensic Science & Criminology
- **B.Sc.** Forensic Science & Computer Science
- **Bachelor of Physician Associate studies (BPA)**

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

- **MCA** Master of Computer Applications
- **M.Sc.** Data Science
- **M.Sc.** Cyber Security

SCHOOL OF COMPUTATIONAL & PHYSICAL SCIENCES

- **M.Sc.** Physics
- **M.Sc.** Applied Statistics and Data Analytics
- **BCA** Bachelor of Computer Applications
- **BCA** Analytics
- **BCA** Cloud Computing
- **BCA** Cyber Security
- **BCA** Internet of Things
- **B.Sc.** Data Science
- **B.Sc.** Artifical Intelligence & Machine Learning
- **B.Sc.** Blockchain Technology
- **B.Sc.** Quantum Computing
- **B.Sc.** Animation and Game Design
- **B.Sc.** Computer Science & Electronics
- **B.Sc.** Computer Science & Mathematics
- **B.Sc.** Computer Science & Physics
- **B.Sc.** Physics & Mathematics
- **B.Sc.** Computer Science & Statistics
- **Postgraduate Diploma** in Data Analytics

SCHOOL OF LAW

- **B.A. LL.B.(H)**
- **B.B.A. LL.B.(H)**
- **B.Com LL.B.(H)**
- **LLM** Constitutional and Administrative Law
- **LLM** IPR and Technology Law
- **Postgraduate Diploma** in Cyber Law & Cyber Security

www.kristujayanti.edu.in
admission@kristujayanti.com
+91 9449451111

*Programme will be offered subject to approval of respective Statutory bodies

Ph.D. Programmes

● Biotechnology ● Microbiology ● Biochemistry ● Forensic Science ● Computer Science ● Data Science ● Computer Applications ● Physics ● Commerce ● Economics ● English Literature ● Psychology ● Clinical Psychology ● Counselling Psychology ● Media and Communication ● Public Administration ● Social Work ● Management

KristuJayanti (Deemed to be University)
K.Narayanapura, Kothanur P.O., Bengaluru, Karnataka-560077, INDIA. Tel: 080-68737777

CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

FRIDAY ▸ MAY 15, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 300 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

IBC WORLD NEWS
CH ABC
Certified English Daily

China's Xi warns Trump on Taiwan at Beijing summit P9

India highlights structured textile recovery, reuse systems P11

P12 Exclusive rights secured for Allu Arjun's style

www.ibcworldnews.com | BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI | cityhilights.news@gmail.com

'Peace can't be piecemeal'

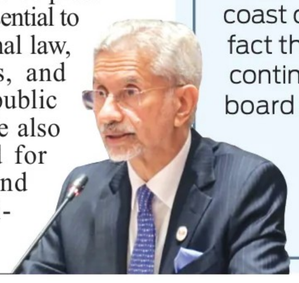
At BRICS meet, India flags concerns over West Asia crisis, unilateral sanctions; urges BRICS nations to develop 'practical ways' to navigate geopolitical upheavals

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said that "peace cannot be piecemeal" and flagged grave concerns over the West Asia crisis and its impact on energy supplies and maritime stability in the Strait of Hormuz.

In his address at the opening day of a two-day BRICS conclave here, Jaishankar asserted, without naming specific nations, that respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity must anchor international relations, maintaining that "dialogue and diplomacy" offer the only sustainable path to conflict resolution. India also urged BRICS nations to develop "practical ways" to navigate geopolitical upheavals as well as "unilateral coercive" sanctions.

He said India stands ready to contribute constructively towards de-escalation efforts and to support initiatives aimed at restoring stability while noting that "peace cannot be piecemeal" and "it is essential to uphold international law, protect civilians, and avoid targeting public infrastructure." He also strongly pitched for ensuring safe and unimpeded maritime flows.



Indian-flagged ship attacked off Oman coast: MEA

The Ministry of External Affairs said that an Indian-flagged commercial vessel came under attack off the coast of Oman on Thursday. All crew members are safe. Deeming the attack as "unacceptable", it said at the moment it is not known who carried out the attack. "The attack on an Indian-flagged ship off the coast of Oman is unacceptable and we deplore the fact that commercial shipping and civilian mariners continue to be targeted," it said. "All Indian crew on board are safe and we thank the Omani authorities for rescuing them," it said. India reiterates that targeting commercial shipping and endangering innocent crew members should be avoided, MEA added.

NEET paper leak: 2 more arrested

NEW DELHI

The CBI has made two further arrests in connection with the NEET-UG 2026 question paper leak case. The accused have been identified as Dhananjay Lokhanda and Manisha Waghmare. Lokhanda was arrested from Ahilyanagar while Waghmare was nabbed from Pune.

The agency also carried out searches at 14 different locations across India during the past 24 hours as part of its ongoing investigation.

Earlier, five individuals were arrested in the case on Wednesday. Among them, three were taken into custody from Jaipur, one from Gurugram, and one from Nashik.

5 accused sent to CBI remand

They have been identified as Yash Yadav, Mangilal Khatik alias Mangilal Biwal, Vikash Biwal, Shubham Khainwar and Dinesh Biwal.

The Rouse Avenue Court in Delhi has sent all five accused to a seven-day CBI remand. Special CBI judge Ajay Gupta passed the order. Officials said several other individuals are still being questioned as part of the ongoing inquiry. The probe is continuing, with CBI officials stating that all possible leads are being followed.

K'taka Guv halves convoy size

BENGALURU

Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for austerity, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Thursday reduced his official convoy to the minimum required strength.

In an X post, Lok Bhavan said the decision was taken in line with the PM's appeal to conserve fuel and cut foreign exchange spending amid West Asia crisis. The post read, "Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot has reduced his convoy to the minimum required strength, following Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's appeal."

'No saffron shawls in schools'

MYSURU

Day after the Congress government revoked a controversial ban on the hijab (head scarf) in government schools, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday clarified that saffron shawls would not be allowed in educational institutions under the state government's order on religious symbols.

He said that practices already in existence such as hijab, turbans, rudraksha beads and sacred threads (Janeu) would continue to be permitted.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, he clarified that those religious attire which are in practice will be allowed.

The government on Wednesday passed an order allowing students to wear hijab, sacred thread, Shivadhara, Rudraksha in schools. The order scrapped the BJP government's 2022 order, banning Hijab in government schools following the Hijab versus saffron shawl controversy.

SIR in K'taka from May 30

NEW DELHI

Karnataka and 18 other states and UTs will undergo Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the third phase in a staggered manner starting on May 30 and culminating with the publication of the final voter list between September and December.

The process will be undertaken in different states on different dates. For Karnataka, the qualifying date of SIR has been fixed on October 1. While the preparation, training and printing of enumeration forms will be undertaken between June 20 and 29, the house to house visits by booth level officers will be between June 30 and July 29. The publication of draft electoral rolls has been fixed for August 5 while people can file claims/objections between August 5 and September 4. Notices will be issued to dispose of claims/objections between September August 5 to October 3. The final roll will be out on October 7.

VD Satheesan wins Kerala CM race

NEW DELHI

After intense internal discussions and days of political suspense, the Congress has finally annouced VD Satheesan as Kerala's next chief minister.

Satheesan's public support and the leadership skills that he demonstrated while in opposition in the state have reportedly played a crucial role in this selection.

Congress' Kerala in-charge Deepa Dasmunsi announced the CM selection a press meet here, soon after Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi concluded his nearly two-and-half-hour-meeting with Venugopal, who is also General Secretary (Organisation).

While Venugopal was claiming the support of majority of MLAs and Chennithala highlighted his seniority, what turned the tables for Satheesan was the outpouring of public support after the results, as well as the endorsement of allies, especially the IUML.

More on page 8

Pinarayi elected LoP

Former CM Pinarayi Vijayan will be the new Opposition leader in Kerala. CPM state committee meeting held on Thursday took the decision unanimously, a statement from party state secretary M V Govindan said. After the election rout for the LDF under Vijayan's leadership, there was a strong demand for a leadership change.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Shri N.A. Haris
Hon'ble MLA, Shantinagar Assembly Constituency & Chairman, BDA

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Skandagiri Apartments

Launch on 15th May 2026

Premium Homes Priceless Memories

3 BHK
built up area
1,444 sqft
Price starting from
₹ 1.44 Cr

1 BHK
built up area
635 sqft
Price starting from
₹ 51 Lakhs

Phase -1, Konadasapura (Whitefield), Bengaluru

scan the QR code for Location

https://flats.bdakarnataka.in 94831 66622

QUICK READ

Free skating camp boosts youth sports spirit

KOPPAL

The Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, Koppal, along with The Best Skating Academy, will organize a free summer skating training camp from May 20 to 25 at the district stadium. Children and youth above five years can join the camp. Training sessions will be held twice daily from 6.30 am to 7.30 am and from 5 pm to 6 pm for participants' convenience. The camp aims to improve skating skills, fitness, and sportsmanship among children. Experienced trainers will guide the participants. For registration and details, interested athletes can contact Shivananda H, Mehboob H, or M.D. Saifullah.

Grand Ambedkar celebration honors leaders and students

NAREGAL

Bhima Sena State Sangharsh Committee, along with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Fan Club and G.S. Patil Fan Club, will celebrate Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary and Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram's 119th birth anniversary on May 16 near Ambedkar Circle in Naregal. Several religious leaders, ministers, and public representatives will attend the event. Rona MLA G.S. Patil will receive the Jai Bhim Ratna State Award during the function. Talented SSLC and PUC students, government employees from the Madiga community, and social workers will also be honored. Cultural and musical performances will entertain the audience throughout the evening.

Kumta power meeting aims resolve consumer issues

KARWAR

HESCOM's Kumta Sub-Division will organize an electricity court and consumer dialogue meeting on May 16 at its office premises to address public grievances. The electricity court will be conducted from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm, while the consumer dialogue session will take place from 3.30 pm to 5 pm. Officials said consumers can attend in large numbers and discuss electricity-related complaints, service issues, and billing concerns directly with department authorities. The initiative aims to improve customer service and ensure problem resolution. Consumers seeking information may contact the Kumta Sub-Division office during working hours through the released telephone numbers.

Survey completed: Kalaivaar reaches 481,587 people

The "Kalaivaar" scheme's massive survey has reached nearly 500,000 residents, driving urgent water, hygiene, & infrastructure reforms across Dharwad

DHARWAD

A massive wave of development is sweeping across the district as the "Kalaivaar" scheme completes its comprehensive baseline survey. Conducted throughout May, the survey reached a staggering 481,587 people across 286 rural blocks and 238 urban wards. Officials confirmed that out of the applications received for various benefits, nearly 794 have already seen significant administrative progress.

In a major shift toward transparency, the Tahsildar has taken over the recruitment process for specific personnel, replacing the old departmental committees.

Selection camps were held across nine key locations, including Heggadadevanakote and Hanagalu, to streamline local hiring and ensure fairness.

The report also prioritizes basic necessities. To combat rising summer temperatures, local authorities are coordinating to fix water shortages. Measures include inspecting affected areas and treating water bodies with chlorination to ensure safety. Furthermore, the new budget now officially includes the supply of sanitary napkins to support women's health and hygiene.

Infrastructure is also seeing a major boost.

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, 44 new water supply schemes were completed recently in taluks like Byadagi and Shiggaon. Education and childcare are not far behind, out of 85 sanctioned Anganwadis, 74 centers are now operational, providing vital support to families in rural and urban clusters.

With irrigation water scheduled for release after May 20, the administration is ensuring that both farmers and residents remain well-supported. These efforts mark a dedicated move toward improving the daily lives of every citizen in the region.

Vijayanagar forest officials dismantled a major timber smuggling ring in Hosapete, seizing high-quality teak wood worth crores of rupees

Forest officials bust major teak wood smuggling ring

HOSAPETE

In a massive crackdown on environmental crime, forest department officials in Vijaynagar have dismantled an illegal timber trafficking network. The operation resulted in the seizure of high-quality teak and seasoned wood estimated to be worth crores of rupees on the international market.

Acting on a specific tip-off, officials raided a layout near Saibaba Circle in Hosapete. There, they discovered a large stash of illegally stored logs. Two local residents from Azad Nagar, identified as Ibrahim and Munir, have been named as the primary suspects behind the operation.

Investigations reveal a sophisticated "paper trail" scam. The accused reportedly imported the timber from Mumbai to Hosapete by using forged documents to bypass checkpoints. By creating these fake records, the ring managed to move massive quantities of wood undetected until this week's raid.

Forest officials suspect that this network extends far beyond these two individuals. They believe more players are involved in the illegal sale and distribution of these protected resources. As a result, the department has intensified its investigation to track down other accomplices. This bold action has sent a clear warning to timber thieves across the region, proving that the district is getting serious about protecting its natural assets.

DySP Basavaraj leads interrogation of spiritual leader

DAVANAGERE

In a significant development for the local community, Vachanananda Swamiji was interrogated for five hours at the Harihar Rural Police Station. The questioning, led by DySP Basavaraj, follows serious allegations of sexual assault involving hostel boys. Despite the gravity of the case, the spiritual leader remained composed, telling reporters, "We respect and follow the law," before heading for a mandatory medical examination.

At the Harihar Taluk Public Hospital, emergency specialist Dr. Raghavendra Durgoji conducted a comprehensive physical checkup. To ensure the integrity of the investigation, forensic samples including hair, nails, and clothing were collected. These samples have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), with results expected in roughly 15 days. "From a health standpoint, Swamiji is strong," the doctor confirmed after monitoring his vital signs.

Outside the station, the atmosphere was tense as hundreds of devoted followers gathered to show their support. Led by Parameshwara Gowda, the devotees expressed outrage, claiming the case is a "pure lie" and a conspiracy by the monastery's trust to remove the monk from his position.

The committee alleged that certain individuals are attempting to seize the monastery's assets by sending the leader to jail.

The situation remains delicate as the investigation continues.

Byadgi rainfall soars 180 percent above normal

HAVERI

Haveri district is navigating a complex financial and environmental landscape this month, as local authorities release their latest progress reports for the 2026-27 fiscal year. While the region deals with shifting economic trends, nature has made a significant impact with rainfall levels soaring far above normal expectations.

Between May 8 and May 14, the district recorded a cumulative rainfall of 14.80 mm, a nearly 30% increase over the seasonal norm. The Byadgi taluk saw the most dramatic shift, with actual rainfall hitting 35.27 mm staggering 180% above the usual average. While areas like Savanur reported a deficit, the overall district total remains high, prompting the administration to approve fifteen rain damage compensation cases to assist affected residents.

Financially, the district reported a total expenditure of 76.60 lakh rupees from January through mid-May. Though monthly spending fluctuated, the "Tava-Bamba" scheme remains a core focus, with 60.06 million currently approved for various developmental projects. Significant funds are being channeled into specialized agriculture, including the production of sandalwood, jasmine, and medicinal plants, which are projected to bolster the local economy.

Infrastructure and social welfare also show steady movement. Authorities have approved land acquisition compensation totaling 0.24 lakhs for public projects and are closely monitoring building progress.

Currently, multiple units are moving through foundation and plinth stages. As the budget for 2026-27 takes shape, officials are prioritizing water safety and agricultural sustainability to ensure the district remains resilient against the unpredictable monsoon season.

New mental health training for district guards

KOPPAL

Mental health is just as vital as physical health, and for students living away from home, the right support system is essential. This was the core message from District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Dr. Lingaraju T., during a specialized training program held at the Zilla Panchayat's G.H. Patel Hall.

The event focused on equipping hostel guards across the district with the skills to identify mental health issues and drug addiction among young residents. Dr. Lingaraju emphasized that mental health problems in teenagers are treatable illnesses, not permanent stigmas. He urged guardians to monitor students closely, noting that early detection through counseling and medical help at local government hospitals can help a person lead a perfectly normal life.

Adding technical depth to the session, psychiatrist Dr. Ravikumar explained that stress and traumatic life events are often the roots of mental illness. He warned that drug addiction is increasingly common among youth, leading to severe physical damage like stomach issues and even cancer. To combat stress, he recommended a lifestyle rooted in yoga, meditation, and a healthy diet. The administration also highlighted the "Tele Manas" helpline (14416) as a 24/7 resource for those in need. By training the guards who see these students every day, the district aims to create a safety net that catches issues before they escalate. The program concluded with a call for harmony and better communication within hostels to ensure every student feels supported and safe.

NEW KALABURAGI-DANDELI LINK

New night bus link for Kalaburagi-Dandeli travelers

GADAG

Traveling across North Karnataka just got a whole lot more comfortable. The Kalyan Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) has officially launched a new non-AC sleeper bus service connecting Kalaburagi and Dandeli. This strategic route is designed to provide a much-needed direct link for passengers traveling between these major hubs.

Starting from Kalaburagi Unit-1, the bus will traverse several key towns, including Jeevargi, Shahapur, Lingasugur, Kushtagi, Gadag, Hubballi, and Dharwad. This extensive coverage ensures that commuters in smaller towns also have access to high-quality overnight travel options.

The schedule is built for convenience.

The bus will depart from the Kalaburagi bus station every night at 10:00 PM, allowing travelers to sleep through the journey and arrive in the tourist-friendly town of Dandeli by 8:30 AM the next morning.

For the return trip, the bus leaves the Dandeli station at 6:30 PM, arriving back in Kalaburagi at 5:00 AM the following day, perfect for those heading straight to work or home.

Local transport officials are encouraging the public to make the most of this new facility. By offering a sleeper option, the KKRTC aims to reduce the fatigue of long-distance road travel and provide a reliable alternative to private transport.

Whether you are traveling for business, visiting family, or heading to the forests of Dandeli for a getaway, this new night service offers a seamless and affordable way to cross the state. Tickets are available at the respective bus stations.

Helmet mandatory from June 1, Ballari launches road safety awareness drive

CH NEWS, BALLARI

The Ballari district administration on Thursday launched a large-scale helmet awareness campaign and bike rally, announcing that wearing helmets will be made mandatory for all two-wheeler riders across the district from June 1.Deputy Commissioner Nagendra Prasad K inaugurated the awareness programme organised jointly by the district police and traffic police department at the District Police Office premises.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said road safety laws are meant to protect public lives and urged citizens to strictly follow traffic rules. He stated that seeking exemption from wearing helmets is equivalent to ignoring the importance of protecting one's own life and family.

"Helmet usage is not just about avoiding fines. It is about saving lives," he said.

District Superintendent of Police Dr. Suman D. Pennekar expressed concern over rising fatalities caused by bike accidents in the district. According to police data, 462 people have died in two-wheeler accidents in Ballari district between 2023 and April 2026.

Officials said the district records nearly one death every two days due to bike accidents, with more than 150 people losing their lives annually.

Senior Civil Judge and District Legal Services Authority member secretary Rajesh N. Hosamane said many people take greater care of their expensive mobile phones than their own safety.As part of the campaign, awareness posters carrying the message "Wear Helmet – Save Life" were unveiled and 100 helmets were distributed to civic workers and members of the public.

Koppal issues new four way trash mandate

KOPPAL

The Koppal Municipal Corporation has launched a major cleanup drive, issuing strict new guidelines for solid waste management. Following the Central Government's 2026 rules, every household and business in the city must now play an active role in keeping the streets clean.

Under the new mandate, all residents are required to separate their trash into four specific categories being wet waste, dry waste, sanitary waste, and hazardous items like batteries, bulbs, and old medicines. This step is designed to ensure that dangerous materials are handled safely and recyclable items do not end up in landfills.

The city is also cracking down on "large waste generators." This group includes hotels, restaurants, and industries that produce over 100 kg of waste daily or occupy more than 20,000 square feet. These large establishments are now required to set up their own waste treatment systems on-site. If they cannot process the waste themselves, they must hand over segregated trash to the municipality and pay a special treatment fee.

The Municipal Commissioner warned that there is no room for negligence. Establishments that fail to comply with these rules will face strict legal action. By enforcing these measures, the corporation aims to modernize Koppal's waste system and create a healthier environment for all. Local officials are calling on the public to cooperate, stressing that a cleaner city starts at the doorstep of every home and shop.

Prohibitory orders issued for Koppal SSLC exams

KOPPAL

To ensure the upcoming SSLC Exam-2 remains peaceful and fair, District Magistrate Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has issued a strict prohibitory order across Koppal.

Starting May 18 through May 25, a 200-meter "no-go zone" will be enforced around all 12 examination centers in the district.

The exams, scheduled daily from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, will take place at key locations including Bethal English High School, Kalidasa High School, and several government colleges in taluks like Gangavathi, Kushtagi, and Yelaburga.

Under Section 163 of the Indian Civil Safety Code, the public is strictly forbidden from gathering or loitering near these schools while students are testing.

To prevent any form of cheating or disruption, the district has banned the use of mobile phones, pagers, and Xerox machines within the protected radius. Only authorized students, teachers, and security personnel are allowed to enter the premises. Furthermore, carrying any form of weapon near the centers is strictly prohibited.

Authorities are leaving no stone unturned to maintain the integrity of the exams.

However, the District Magistrate clarified that these restrictions will not affect essential community events such as weddings, funerals, or pre-planned religious programs.

By clearing the surroundings of noise and interference, the administration aims to provide a stress-free environment for the thousands of students appearing for their crucial second set of board exams this year.

Local police will be patrolling the zones to ensure full compliance with the order.

QUICK READ

Mandya invites applications for guest lecturers

CH NEWS, Mandya Applications have been invited for the recruitment of guest lecturers for a newly started women's pre-university college in Mandya town. The college has been set up under the Minority Welfare Department for the academic year 2026–27 to support higher education for minority women in the district. Officials said eligible candidates can submit their applications at the District Minority Welfare Department office at Maulana Azad Bhavan. The last date to apply is May 25. Authorities added that this recruitment is aimed at ensuring quality teaching staff for the new institution and improving educational opportunities for students.

Anganwadi worker posts open in Chitradurga

CH NEWS, Chitradurga Applications have been invited for 14 Anganwadi Co-Workers and 14 Anganwadi Assistants under the Bharamasagar Child Development Scheme in Chitradurga district. Officials said the recruitment will be on an honorarium basis. Eligible candidates can collect the application form from the Bharamasagar Child Development Scheme office and submit the filled forms in the designated box at the same office. The last date for submission is June 8. Authorities said the selection aims to strengthen child development services at the local level. For more details, applicants can contact the scheme office on Turuvanur Road near Basappa Hospital in Chitradurga.

Pratibhotsava ceremony scheduled in Chitradurga

CH NEWS, Chitradurga The Pratibhotsava ceremony will be held on May 15 at 10 am at the Valmiki Community Hall near Madakari Circle in Chitradurga city. The programme is organised in collaboration with the Department of College and Technical Education, Davangere University, and Government First Grade Women's College IQAC. MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappi will release the annual issue of "Mahila Siri" and distribute prizes. Legislative Council member K.S. Naveen will attend as chief guest, while folklore expert S. Sharanappa will deliver the concluding address. College Principal Dr. Shivanna will preside over the event.

Transparency ordered in mining housing beneficiary selection

Dr. Bijjoor prioritised housing for landless families, directing nearby land identification and full infrastructure development in new layouts

CHITRADURGA

Karnataka Mining Environment Revitalization Corporation Managing Director Dr. Sanjay S. Bijjoor has directed officials to maintain complete transparency while selecting beneficiaries for housing projects in mining affected areas of Chitradurga district.

He spoke during a progress review meeting held at the District Collector's office on Thursday under the Comprehensive Environmental Plan for Mining Impact Zone project. He instructed gram panchayat development officers to ensure that only genuine and deserving families receive housing benefits without any political or external pressure.

Dr. Bijjoor said the government is giving priority to landless and homeless families while implementing housing schemes. He instructed officials to quickly identify suitable land within two kilometers of villages and submit lay out proposals for approval. He also stressed that newly developed housing layouts must include roads, drinking water, streetlights, electrification, health centers, and anganwadi facilities. He warned officials not to select land near burial grounds, saying people are unwilling to live in such places. He also instructed authorities to ensure proper road connectivity between new colonies and the main villages.The Managing Director said officers from various departments are responsible for implementing projects under the corporation scheme and warned against delays or negligence. He said several health related programmes are being introduced in mining affected areas, including nutrition support for tuberculosis patients and care programmes for newborn babies.

During the meeting, Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Akash presented plans to restore environmental balance in the district through scientific measures. He said groundwater levels in the district are falling rapidly and immediate steps are needed to improve water recharge systems. Officials proposed installing water recharge systems and solar panels in government schools. Dr. Akash said nearly 300 schools would be covered in the first phase, and the electricity generated would be supplied to the state power grid.

N Ramachandra Raju receives Kayaka Yogi award

MANDYA

Niranjan Academy honoured artists during an art festival organised as part of Workers Day celebrations at Hardikar Bhavan in Mandya. Artist N Ramachandra Raju received the Kayaka Yogi award for his contribution to painting and art service. Speaking at the programme, retired headmaster P Ramamurthy praised Ramachandra Raju for following the values of hard work and dedication inspired by Basavanna's saying "Kayakave Kailasa." He said the artist has continued his creative journey with commitment and sincerity.

Ramachandra Raju thanked the organisers and said the encouragement from his family has helped him continue his work in art. He also appreciated Niranjan Academy for recognising talented artists and supporting cultural activities. He said receiving the Kayaka Yogi award has increased his responsibility towards society and art. Principal Kumar and artists Ashok Lakshman Puttaswamy and G V Ramachandra were present during the programme. Organisers said the event was held to encourage artists and recognise their valuable contribution to culture and society through creative work. Many art lovers attended the celebration and appreciated the honoured artists warmly.

Melukote road project launched with bhoomi puja

MANDYA

Road development work connecting Ganadalu and Chandagalu villages in Melukote constituency was launched on Wednesday with a bhoomi puja performed by MLA Darshan Puttannaiah. The project is being carried out by the Public Works Department at a cost of nearly five crore rupees. The road will connect V C Farm Gate to Chandagalu village through Ganadalu village and also include internal village road development up to the Chandagalu canal area. Speaking after the ceremony, the MLA said the road had remained in poor condition for many years and villagers had faced difficulties in transportation.

He said the new development work would improve travel and provide better connectivity for residents farmers and daily commuters in the region. He added that the project would support village development and make transportation easier during all seasons. Villagers welcomed the project and expressed happiness over the long pending demand finally being addressed by the government. Several village leaders officials and members of the farmers association attended the event. Public Works Department engineers and contractor representatives were also present during the launch ceremony.

Officials said the road project is expected to improve access to nearby villages schools farms and markets while supporting economic activities in rural areas. Residents said better roads would help students workers and farmers travel safely and reduce transportation problems during rainy seasons in the constituency. Authorities assured quality work and timely completion of the development project for public benefit in the area.

Mandya ensures quality seeds fertilizers for monsoon season

MANDYA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar has instructed officials to ensure proper supply of quality seeds and fertilizers for farmers during the 2026-27 monsoon season in Mandya district.

Speaking at a review meeting held at the District Collector's office on Wednesday, he said farmers have already started preparations for sowing activities and departments must act quickly to avoid shortages during the rainy season.

Dr. Kumar directed agriculture officials to maintain enough stock of fertilizers and sowing seeds across the district. He also warned officials to prevent the sale of poor quality seeds and fertilizers to farmers.

He said fertilizer shops must clearly display stock details and price lists. Fertilizer inspectors were instructed to regularly visit shops under their jurisdiction to check stock availability and ensure there is no artificial shortage.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized distribution of quality seeds and urged promoting green manure use to improve soil health and reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that only quality seeds should be distributed to farmers. He also advised officials to encourage farmers to use green manure as an alternative to chemical fertilizers to improve soil health and reduce excessive fertilizer use.

Officials were asked to ensure timely supply of all agricultural inputs, including pesticides, seeds and fertilizers, before the peak sowing period begins.

During the meeting, Dr. Kumar said farmers must now have a valid Farmer ID, also called FID, to receive government benefits and purchase fertilizers. Farmers have been asked to visit nearby Raitha Sampark Kendras to create a new ID or link their land survey numbers to existing IDs.

He said the Farmer ID is necessary for receiving benefits under schemes such as PM-KISAN, drought relief assistance, fertilizer subsidies and seed distribution programmes. Agriculture officials were instructed to conduct awareness campaigns so that all farmers understand the importance of registration.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed officials to closely monitor any shortage of fertilizers and seeds during the monsoon season and take immediate action if problems arise.

He further instructed departments to create awareness about crop insurance schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Eligible farmers should be informed and encouraged to apply within the prescribed deadline to protect their crops against losses caused by natural disasters and weather changes.

Joint Director of Agriculture Ashok, Joint Director of Horticulture Roopshree, Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry Shivalingaiah, agriculture officials, fertilizer suppliers and seed distributors attended the meeting and discussed preparations for smooth farming activities during the coming monsoon season in the district.

The centre offers shelter, medical, legal, counselling support, helplines, and promotes Beti Bachao Beti Padhao awareness for girls

Madikeri college hosts women child welfare workshop

MADIKERI

An information workshop on government schemes for women and children was held at Government First Grade Women's College in Madikeri on Wednesday. The programme was jointly organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Police Department and Women and Child Development Department through the District Women Empowerment Unit. Speaking at the inauguration, Gender Specialist Keshini S R said the Women Empowerment Unit works for the social, economic and educational development of women along with safety and protection. She explained that women facing domestic violence can approach the Sakhi One Stop Centre for help, which operates 24 hours a day.

The centre provides emergency shelter, medical assistance, legal support, counselling and help in filing FIRs. She also highlighted the importance of helplines such as 181 Mahila Helpline, 112 emergency service and 1098 Child Helpline for immediate support. Officials also spoke about the national Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, which aims to improve the child sex ratio and encourage education for girls. Students were urged to focus on education and build strong futures through learning and awareness. The Akka Force initiative, a joint programme of the Women and Child Development and Police Departments, was also explained. It aims to ensure safety for women and children in public places and provide quick response support.

Shivamogga hosts Marnamibail Short Film Festival launch

SHIVAMOGGA

Former Deputy Chief Minister K S Eshwarappa released the first poster of the Marnamibail Short Film Festival at Patrika Bhavan in Shivamogga. The festival is being organised by Suryagaana Magazine, the media arm of the Gara Group, along with other fortnightly publications.

Speaking on the occasion, K S Eshwarappa wished success for the event and said the short film festival should become a meaningful cultural platform that supports young talent and creative expression.

Organisers said the festival aims to encourage new filmmakers and promote short film culture in the region. Gara Srinivas and members of the organising team were present during the poster release ceremony.

Film directors, journalists and creative professionals also attended the programme. Among them were director Yashodhar, Srinivas Sharma, journalist Deshadri, Naveen Talari, short film director Nitin, Parameshwar from Creative Group, engineer Bharat Gutthi and Syed Mujibullah. They said the festival will provide opportunities for emerging artists and storytellers to showcase their work.

Swift police action cracks salty powder heist

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Gauribidanur police arrested three accused within three hours after a robbery involving seven and a half lakh rupees on Thursday. Police also recovered the entire stolen amount from the accused during the operation.

According to police, Shivashankar Aradhya of Vinayak Nagar had planned to buy a yellow board car after discussions with his distant relative Yashwant Aradhya, who promised profitable travel business opportunities. Trusting him, Shivashankar carried money collected from his house and mortgage funds for the vehicle purchase.

While travelling, two men on a bike approached him pretending to ask for an address. They suddenly threw salty powder into his eyes and snatched a bag containing seven and a half lakh rupees before escaping. When Shivashankar shouted for help, local residents tried to stop the thieves, but they threatened people and fled from the spot. Police became suspicious after Yashwant allegedly failed to react during the incident. During questioning, he reportedly confessed to planning the robbery with the other accused.

DISTRICT CLIMATE IMPLEMENTATION

Karnataka Climate Action Training Held in Madikeri

MADIKERI

A training workshop on the Karnataka State Climate Change Action Plan (KSAPCC) was held in Madikeri on Thursday to strengthen district-level implementation of climate goals across the state.

The programme was organized by the Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), an autonomous body under the Department of Forest, Environment and Ecology, Government of Karnataka. Officials said the state action plan was prepared as per government direction and received approval from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 2024.

Under the plan, departments have been assigned performance targets and key indicators for the period 2025 to 2030. Authorities said training and capacity building of district officials is essential for successful implementation of these goals.

EMPRI, in collaboration with the Karnataka State Council of Science and Technology (KSCST), has already

conducted similar training programmes in 22 districts during 2025–26. The initiative is now being expanded to all 31 districts in 2026–27.

The Madikeri workshop was held at the Zilla Panchayat Hall under the chairmanship of Kodagu Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Anand Prakash Meena. Chief Planning Officer Abdul Nabi and Executive Engineer Ramachandra attended as special guests.

The programme was inaugurated by lighting a ceremonial lamp and watering a plant by experts from EMPRI and the Advanced Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ACIWRM), Bengaluru.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Anand Prakash Meena said climate change has multiple causes and regular awareness and data-based planning is essential to address it. He stressed that officials should understand and implement key performance indicators effectively and make full use of the training programme.

Experts Dr. Shruti from EMPRI and Dr. Shashikumar, water resources specialist from ACIWRM, delivered technical sessions on the climate action plan. They explained policy frameworks, departmental responsibilities, climate pollutants, and district-level climate data.

Dr. Shashikumar also highlighted the importance of water resource management in climate adaptation strategies. Officials discussed how departments can coordinate better for sustainable water use.

QUICK READ

Two-month ration distribution announced in Chitradurga

CH NEWS, Chitradurga Under the National Food Security Act, ration for May and June is being distributed together in Chitradurga district, officials said. Antyodaya (AAY) card holders will receive rice and millet as per monthly entitlement, while Priority Household (PHH) card holders will get rice and millet based on family size and category. Authorities said beneficiaries must complete biometric verification separately for each month at their respective fair price shops. Ration distribution will be available daily from 6 am to 10 pm. Officials warned that complaints regarding under-supply or overcharging can be reported through the helpline 1967 or to the concerned department offices for action.

Police arrest suspect for alleged ganja peddling bid in Mangaluru

CH NEWS, Mangaluru Acting on a tip-off, Kavoor police arrested a man allegedly attempting to sell ganja near Maryhill helipad ground in the city. The accused, identified as Irshad alias Irsha (26), was found in possession of 3.138 kg of ganja, police said. Officers also seized a scooter, mobile phone and other articles, taking the total value of seized property to about 1.56 lakh. Police registered a case under the NDPS Act and said the accused has been involved in previous criminal cases.

PRAHARI vehicles to lead monsoon preparedness drive in Bengaluru

Rao ordered inspection of tree-cutting equipment and directed city corporations to submit emergency preparedness reports within one week

BENGALURU

To strengthen monsoon preparedness across Greater Bengaluru, Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed all city corporation commissioners to immediately conduct parades of PRAHARI emergency response vehicles in their respective limits and ensure full readiness to handle heavy rains and flooding situations.

He issued the directions during a coordination meeting held at the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) head office. He instructed officials to thoroughly inspect all equipment in PRAHARI vehicles and confirm their operational readiness for emergency use during the monsoon season.

Rao also ordered a detailed inspection of tree-cutting machinery and other emergency equipment across city corporations. Commissioners have been asked to submit a comprehensive preparedness report within one week.

He further directed officials to review control rooms and ensure that adequate staff, systems, and emergency response mechanisms are in place to

handle rain-related crises effectively.

Special focus was given to flood-prone railway low-lying areas. He said city officials and railway authorities must conduct joint inspections, identify vulnerable locations, and coordinate necessary works to prevent waterlogging and drainage failures.

The meeting also discussed proposals to procure litter pickers to improve cleanliness across the city and strengthen solid waste management systems.Officials were instructed to carry out cleaning and desilting of road medians wherever necessary to improve rainwater flow and reduce flooding risks. Identification and removal of dilapidated and unsafe structures across Bengaluru were also prioritized for public safety.

The Commissioner warned against unauthorized road cutting and said strict legal action would be taken against those violating rules without permission. He also emphasized regular monitoring of waterlogging-prone areas and implementation of preventive measures.

Senior officials from multiple departments, including city corporations, BWSSB, BDA, Railways, NHAI, and traffic police, attended the meeting and discussed coordinated action for effective monsoon management.

Sericulture dept supports mulberry farmers

MANDYA

A technology demonstration on integrated management of whitefly and May-June borer pests in mulberry orchards was conducted at Nelamakanahalli village under the Gajanur cluster in Maddur taluk. The programme was organized jointly by the Central Silk Board Research and Extension Centre sub-unit Maddur and the Sericulture Department of Mandya district to help silk farmers protect mulberry crops and improve cocoon quality.

Scientist Dr. Shivakumar from the Central Sericulture Board explained various pest control methods and guided farmers on proper usage of recommended pesticides, safety periods, and crop protection measures. Officials said the awareness programme was arranged after several farmers in Maddur, Malavalli, Halaguru and nearby areas reported problems caused by the use of non-recommended pesticides. According to experts, improper pesticide use has affected silkworm growth and caused non-spinning syndrome, where fifth-stage silkworms fail to build cocoons even after several days.

During the demonstration, farmers were advised to use Dominant pesticide mixed at 0.25 grams per litre of water for whitefly control, with a safety period of twenty days before silkworm rearing. For May-June beetle infestation, officials recommended tying neem branches in mulberry fields to attract pests, followed by manual collection and destruction. Light traps were also suggested as an effective control method.

Experts further advised spraying Rogor insecticide mixed at two millilitres per litre of water with a safety period of twenty days to control May-June pests effectively. Officials said proper pest management would help farmers produce better quality cocoons and raw silk.Sericulture department officers and local silk farmers actively participated in the programme and benefited from the technical guidance provided during the awareness session.

Mandya police trace multiple missing children cases

MANDYA

District police in Mandya reviewed missing and kidnapping cases of children in a monthly meeting chaired by the Superintendent of Police, along with officials from the District Legal Services Authority and child protection units. Officials said 21 missing child cases are under investigation, and six old cases have been successfully traced so far. A detailed review highlighted several long pending cases, including a 2012 incident where five boys went missing from a boys home and were later traced after renewed investigation efforts by Mandya West Police. In another case from 2020, a missing girl from Maddur was traced in Dharwad after investigation by the Women Police and AHTU unit, leading to recovery and legal closure of the case. A separate 2022 case involving a boy from a residential school was also solved after police traced him working in Bengaluru and brought him back safely. A 2023 missing case of a teenager from Mandya who disappeared from an institution was later traced after investigation across Mysuru and Bengaluru, where he was found in custody in a criminal case. In a more recent interstate case, police traced a missing woman and three children from Srirangapatna by tracking mobile call records and coordinated search operations in Bihar, leading to their safe recovery. Police officials said continuous monitoring and coordinated efforts between departments have helped in tracing most missing children in the district.

Officials urged the public to immediately report missing cases and cooperate with police investigations. They said special units including AHTU, Women Police, and local stations are working together to trace children quickly. The Superintendent of Police directed staff to strengthen tracking systems, use technology and mobile data, and speed up interstate coordination.

Villagers expressed dissatisfaction over lack of action after Collector-led meeting, alleging negligence despite water tests, technical reports

Villagers protest demanding safe drinking water supply

KUNDAPUR

Residents of Nad Gram Panchayat and nearby villages staged a protest demanding a permanent solution to the problem of contaminated and salty drinking water supply in the region.

The protest was organized in front of the Nad Gram Panchayat office by local villagers along with members of the DYFI Padukone unit and the Janavadi Mahila Sangathan. Protesters said that villages including Nad, Hadavu, Padukone, Badakere, and Senapura are receiving saline and polluted water, causing serious hardship to residents.

They alleged that during the summer season, saltwater from the Sauparnika river enters local water sources, worsening the drinking water crisis. Due to this, people are forced to consume unsafe water, they said.Villagers also expressed dissatisfaction that despite a District Collector–led meeting held earlier, where a water quality test and technical report were recommended, no progress or official update has been provided so far. They accused authorities of negligence and failure to resolve the issue despite repeated complaints raised in gram sabhas.

The protesters demanded immediate implementation of the earlier meeting's decisions and called for a long-term solution, including the construction of a vented dam in the Heroor–Konki stretch of the Sauparnika river. They also urged authorities to ensure regular tanker water supply during the summer season until a permanent solution is implemented.

A formal memorandum was submitted to the Gram Panchayat PDO seeking urgent action and an inquiry into official negligence.

Several local leaders and community representatives, including DYFI, CITU, women's organisations, farmers' groups, and tribal rights activists, participated in the protest and stressed the need for safe and reliable drinking water for all affected villages.

After days of disruprtion over demands of opposition parties after a meeting of floor parties after a meeting after a meeting after a meeting

Officials urge rural workers to use NREGA scheme

VADAGERA

Yadgir Zilla Panchayat Planning Director C.B. Devaramani visited Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGA) worksites in several villages of Vadagera taluk and appealed to rural labourers to make full use of the 100-day guaranteed wage employment provided under the scheme.

During his visit to a nala desilting work site in Gulasaram village, he reviewed the progress, quality, and physical status of ongoing works. He also inspected whether wages were being paid on time and checked the availability of basic facilities such as drinking water, shade, and first aid at the workplace. Muster rolls and biometric attendance records of workers were also verified during the inspection.

Devaramani instructed Panchayat Development Officers to ensure that NREGA provides meaningful support to rural households and that quality standards are strictly maintained in all development works. He emphasized that every job card holder family must be guaranteed up to 100 days of wage employment each year.

He further directed officials to complete pending works from previous years using available grants and ensure continuous employment opportunities for workers. He added that community works approved under the 2025–26 annual action plan should be implemented based on local labour demand.

The official clarified that claims circulating about the closure of the NREGA scheme are false. He said that since agricultural work is limited during the summer season, the scheme plays a crucial role in providing local employment and preventing migration to urban areas.

Officials including NREGA assistant director, IEC coordinator, gram panchayat staff, and workers were present during the inspection. The visit aimed to strengthen implementation and ensure timely wage employment delivery in rural areas.

Police crack ox theft case in Afzalpur, five arrested

AFZALPUR

In a swift investigation, Deval Gangapur police arrested five accused in connection with the theft of two oxen belonging to a farmer in Gobbur (B) village of Afzalpur taluk. The police also seized ₹80,000 in cash and a Mahindra pickup vehicle used in the crime. According to police, the incident took place on the night of March 31 when two white oxen tied in Survey No. 445 of farmer Iranna Revura's land were stolen. A case was registered at the Deval Gangapur police station on April 4 following the complaint.

Acting on the seriousness of the case, DySP Thamaraya Patil formed a special investigation team led by CPI Lakhan Masaguppi, PSI Sangeeta Sinde, ASI Ravindra, and other staff members. The team carried out a detailed probe and traced the accused involved in the theft. The arrested persons have been identified as Asif Qureshi from Kalaburagi, Supiana Qureshi and Aksharbilal Sheikh from Gobbur (B), Babu Bhajantri from Havanur, and M D Ismail Qureshi from Mastakpur in Bidar district.

Police said the stolen oxen were part of a coordinated theft operation, and further investigation is underway to check for any wider network. Senior police officials appreciated the team for solving the case quickly and recovering key evidence including cash and the vehicle.

Authorities have warned that strict action will continue against cattle theft cases in rural areas to protect farmers and their livelihood assets.

Rural grievances must be addressed quickly: ZP CEO

VIJAYAPURA

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Rishi Anand has instructed officials to ensure quick solutions for rural citizens who approach government offices with grievances.

He was speaking after inaugurating the renovated furniture and facilities at the Tikota Taluk Panchayat office in Vijayapura district. The upgraded office now includes improved seating arrangements, computers, printers, drinking water facilities, and sanitation infrastructure aimed at creating a better working environment for staff. Rishi Anand said that a clean and well-maintained office environment improves efficiency and motivates employees to perform better. He appreciated the efforts of the Taluk Panchayat administration for improving infrastructure within the existing building and providing necessary facilities for staff convenience.He urged officers and staff to work with greater dedication and aim to make Tikota taluk a model administrative unit. He also emphasized that available resources and equipment should be used effectively to ensure faster and more efficient public service delivery.

NTA ACCOUNTABILITY DEMAND

AIDSO demands action over NEET irregularities

KALABURAGI

The All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) staged a protest in front of the Kalaburagi Deputy Commissioner's office, raising concerns over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination and demanding strict action against the National Testing Agency (NTA).

The protesters submitted a memorandum highlighting issues such as question paper leaks and alleged negligence in the conduct of the examination. They demanded accountability and reforms in the national-level entrance test system. Addressing the gathering, AIDSO district vice president Govind Yalwar said that students across the country prepare for years and spend significant money with the hope of securing medical seats. He said repeated incidents of question paper leaks in recent years have severely affected students' futures and created widespread uncertainty.

Another leader, Preeti Doddamani, alleged that the examination system is being influenced by commercial interests and that students' aspirations are being compromised. She said the situation reflects a growing crisis in the public education system and called it unacceptable.

Speakers at the protest also criticized centralized examination management, stating that repeated irregularities point to deeper issues of corruption and administrative failure. They said the credibility of competitive examinations is being weakened, affecting students from rural and economically weaker backgrounds the most.

The organization demanded immediate action against those responsible and called for reforms in the examination process. They also urged the government to ensure fairness and transparency in future exams.

AIDSO leaders warned that if corrective steps are not taken, students may be forced to intensify their agitation.

Congress following 'divide and rule' policy in education sector: Kamat

MANGALURU

BJP MLA Vedavyas Kamath on Wednesday accused the Congress government in Karnataka of pursuing a "divide and rule" policy in the education sector by withdrawing the uniform policy introduced by the previous BJP government.

Kamath alleged that the uniform rule had been brought in to ensure equality among students and promote unity in educational institutions by eliminating distinctions based on caste and religion. He claimed that the government's decision to withdraw restrictions on the hijab could adversely affect the academic atmosphere in schools and colleges.

The MLA further said that the hijab issue was still pending before the Supreme Court and alleged that the state government had ignored the judicial process.

QUICK READ

'Judicial probe must in custodial death, rape cases'

Ranchi

The Jharkhand High Court on Thursday delivered a significant ruling on a public interest litigation on custodial deaths and rape cases in the state, mandating that a judicial inquiry will now be compulsory in every such instance. A division bench of Chief Justice M.S. Sonak and Justice Rajesh Shankar directed that any death or rape occurring in police custody or jail custody must be subjected to a judicial inquiry without exception. The court ruled that such inquiries are mandatory under Section 196(2) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the corresponding provision contained in Section 176(1A) of the erstwhile Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

Sunil Mittal signals Bharti succession plan

New Delhi

Airtel Chairman and Managing Director Sunil Bharti Mittal on Thursday said that he plans to hand over the reins of the telecom major to the next generation in the next ten years. I wish to hand over the reins to the next generation in the next 10 years, Mittal said in the company's concall. Mittal was re-appointed as Chairman of Bharti Airtel for another five-year term on Wednesday, with effect from October 1, 2026. The company's board also approved the re-appointment of Nisaba Godrej as an Independent Director for a second term of five years, effective August 4 this year. The Airtel CMD said that he was not happy with the Q4 financial results of Airtel and would be working to step up the Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) of the telecom major.

Guj govt prioritises workers' welfare, health security

'The industrial growth and employment generation were closely linked to the welfare and health of workers'

GANDHINAGAR

The Gujarat government has reaffirmed its commitment to workers' welfare, healthcare access and social security during the 93rd Regional Council Meeting of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) held in Gandhinagar on Thursday.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Bavaliya and State Minister Kantilal Amrutiya and focused on the implementation of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme, healthcare services for insured workers and several labour welfare-related administrative and medical issues.

Addressing members of the ESIC Board, Bavaliya stressed that industrial growth and employment generation were closely linked to the welfare and health of workers. He said workers formed the foundation of Gujarat's development and therefore deserved strong social security protections and quality healthcare facilities.

Providing adequate healthcare facilities, medical services and social security to workers who form the foundation of the state's development is the priority of the state government, the minister said during the meeting.

Bavaliya also highlighted the broader development agenda being pursued under Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the national level and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Gujarat. He said the state government had implemented several welfare programmes aimed at providing workers with social security, economic empowerment and healthcare protection.

The minister stated that the new Labour Codes and Social Security Code introduced by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment would create a more integrated and efficient social protection framework for workers in

both organised and unorganised sectors. According to him, the reforms would help simplify access to benefits and improve labour welfare systems across the country.

Bavaliya also spoke about the growing use of digital platforms in labour administration. He said initiatives such as the e-Shram portal had improved worker registration processes and made access to welfare schemes easier, more transparent and more efficient for labourers across different sectors.

During the meeting, the minister shared details of ESIC's annual health screening initiative launched on May 7. Under the programme, insured workers aged 40 years and above will receive free annual medical check-ups across the country. Bavaliya said the initiative would support early detection and timely treatment of serious diseases.

He further highlighted the recently inaugurated Model Hospital in the Bapunagar area of Ahmedabad, describing it as a major step towards strengthening healthcare infrastructure for workers in Gujarat.

The meeting also included discussions on improving healthcare quality under the ESI scheme, ensuring timely treatment for insured workers, introducing modern medical equipment in hospitals and dispensaries, and accelerating recruitment for vacant medical and administrative posts.

BJP questions Rahul's foreign visits, funding sources

NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday launched a fresh attack on Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi over his foreign travels during the past two decades.

Senior BJP leaders raised concerns over the frequency of Rahul Gandhi's overseas trips and alleged that the Congress leader owed an explanation to the public regarding the financial arrangements linked to those visits.

The party said questions remained unanswered about who funded several of Gandhi's international travels and whether there was complete transparency regarding the expenses involved.

The BJP's criticism comes amid intensifying political exchanges between the ruling party and the opposition ahead of major electoral battles in several states and preparations for future national political campaigns. Party leaders accused Gandhi of repeatedly travelling abroad while key political developments and parliamentary sessions were taking place in India.

According to BJP representatives, the Congress leader had undertaken numerous visits to foreign countries over the last 20 years, including both personal and political engagements. The party alleged that the details regarding accommodation, transportation and sponsorship for many of these trips had not been clearly disclosed in the public domain.

The BJP further claimed that citizens had the right to know the money trail behind such extensive foreign travel by a senior political leader holding a constitutional position as Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. The party also questioned whether any foreign entities or undisclosed organisations had supported the visits financially.

The party alleged that the details regarding accommodation, transportation and sponsorship for many of these trips had not been clearly disclosed in the public domain

While addressing the issue, BJP leaders described Gandhi's travel pattern as luxurious globe-trotting and argued that transparency was essential in public life, especially for individuals occupying important political positions. The party demanded that Gandhi or the Congress leadership clarify the source of funding and provide detailed explanations regarding the trips.

The Congress party had not immediately issued a detailed response to the allegations at the time of reporting. However, Congress leaders in the past have defended Rahul Gandhi's international visits, stating that several of them involved academic events, meetings with the Indian diaspora, political interactions and personal engagements.

Political observers believe the BJP's remarks are part of a broader strategy to challenge Gandhi's public image and portray him as disconnected from domestic issues. The renewed criticism is expected to further intensify political tensions between the ruling alliance and the opposition in the coming weeks.

PRATEEK YADAV CREMATED AS FAMILY BIDS EMOTIONAL FAREWELL

LUCKNOW

The last rites of Prateek Yadav were performed at Baikunth Dham on Thursday in the presence of grieving family members, relatives, supporters and senior political leaders.

The funeral ceremony took place at Baikunth Dham cremation ground in Lucknow's Bhaisakund area, where veteran journalist Arvind Bisht performed the final rites and lit the funeral pyre.

After carrying out the rituals, Bisht became visibly emotional and was seen wiping away tears with a traditional gamcha while offering folded-hand prayers to his son-in-law.

The atmosphere at the cremation ground remained deeply emotional throughout the ceremony as family members and supporters gathered to bid Prateek Yadav a final farewell.

Akhilesh Yadav also arrived at the cremation ground and paid an emotional tribute to his younger brother. Along with cousins Dharmendra Yadav and Aditya Yadav, Akhilesh Yadav participated in the last rites by placing logs on the pyre according to Hindu funeral traditions.

Prateek Yadav's wife Aparna Yadav and their daughters, Prathama and Padmaja, were present during the final rites. Several family members, including Shivpal Singh Yadav, were also seen seated together at the cremation ground as the family mourned the loss. Akhilesh Yadav's son, Arjun Yadav, remained with relatives throughout the ceremony.

Senior political leaders cutting across party lines attended the funeral to pay their respects. Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak was among those present at the cremation ground. Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, Dimple Yadav and several other leaders had visited the family residence to offer condolences.

Prateek Yadav's funeral

procession began earlier in the day from his residence and attracted thousands of supporters. Emotional slogans of Prateek Yadav Amar Rahein echoed during the procession as supporters lined the route to pay their respects. Leaders from both the Samajwadi Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party participated in the procession, reflecting the wide personal connections maintained by Prateek Yadav.

Following family tradition, his mortal remains were briefly kept outside the Samajwadi Party office before the procession moved towards the cremation ground. According to customary rituals, the body was placed on the ground five times before reaching Baikunth Dham.

Prateek Yadav was also remembered for his affection towards animals. During the procession, Aparna Yadav displayed a photograph featuring Prateek Yadav with his pet dogs and monkey on the hearse, an emotional tribute that touched many mourners present at the ceremony.

Balianta mob lynching: Odisha crime branch nabs main accused

BHUBANESWAR

The Crime Branch of Odisha Police on Thursday arrested the prime accused involved in the brutal mob lynching of a Government Railway Police (GRP) constable, Soumya Ranjan Swain, in Balianta police station area on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar on May 7 over allegations of sexual harassment of a girl.

Following Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's directions, the Crime Branch was entrusted with the investigation into the sensational incident that occurred in the Bhingarpur-Kaja area under Balianta Police Station on May 7.

In a press statement, the Crime Branch revealed that on May 14, based on substantial evidence collected during the course of the investigation, the main accused, Ranjit Patra alias Chinu, 24, of Gangeswargada under Cuttack Sadar police station in the Cuttack Urban Police District, was arrested.

Investigation has revealed his alleged involvement in assaulting the deceased on the head, a vital part of the body, with a bamboo stick after the deceased had been immobilized by having his hands and legs tied with ropes, informed the Crime Branch.

Additionally, another accused, identified as Judhisthira Jena alias Bunty (22), was also arrested on May 11 and forwarded to the Court, which sent him to judicial custody. So far, a total of 13 accused persons have been arrested in connection with the mob lynching case, of whom 11 were arrested earlier by the local police.

Investigation is continuing on a priority basis, and efforts are underway to identify and apprehend other persons involved in the incident, the Crime Branch added. Notably, the premier investigating wing of the Odisha Police has taken full control of the investigation into two cases registered at the Balianta Police Station, one related to the mob lynching of Soumya and the other based on a complaint lodged by one of the victim girls, who accused the deceased of attempting to sexually assault her.

Vijay govt announces 2% DA hike for employees, pensioners

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Thursday announced a two per cent increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for state government employees, teachers, pensioners, and family pensioners, raising it from 58 per cent to 60 per cent with retrospective effect from January 1, 2026.

The announcement was made through an official government press release issued by the Department of Information and Public Relations. The move is expected to benefit nearly 16 lakh government employees, teachers, pensioners, and family pensioners across the state.

According to the statement, the decision was taken after the Union government enhanced the Dearness Allowance for Central government employees from 58 per cent to 60 per cent with effect from January 1, 2026.

The Tamil Nadu government has now extended the same benefit to state government staff and pensioners.

The state government said the hike reflects its commitment towards the welfare of its employees and teachers, who play a crucial role in implementing welfare schemes and public service initiatives across the state.

The press release noted that the administration led by Chief Minister Vijay has been focused on introducing and effectively implementing several people-centric welfare measures.

Officials said the increase in DA would result in an additional annual expenditure of approximately Rs 1,230 crore for the state exchequer. Despite the financial burden, the government has decided to allocate the necessary additional funds, keeping in mind the welfare of employees, teachers, pensioners, and family pensioners.

The announcement comes at a time when the newly elected Tamil Nadu government is rolling out a series of administrative and welfare-related measures following the 2026 Assembly elections.

Employee unions and pensioners' associations have welcomed the move, stating that the hike would provide relief amid rising living costs and inflationary pressures.

The revised Dearness Allowance will be implemented retrospectively from January 1, 2026, and the government is expected to issue detailed orders regarding disbursement and arrears soon.

POST-POLL VIOLENCE

Chaos at Calcutta HC as lawyers shout 'thief' slogans at Mamata

KOLKATA

Mild tension broke out at the premises of the Calcutta High Court on Thursday after Mamata Banerjee alleged that she was assaulted and heckled by a section of lawyers while leaving the court premises.

The incident occurred after Banerjee appeared as counsel before a division bench hearing a public interest litigation related to alleged post-poll violence in West Bengal.

According to eyewitness accounts, a group of advocates and individuals gathered near the court premises began shouting slogans against Mamata Banerjee as she exited the building following the hearing.

Some lawyers allegedly addressed her as a thief, while others were heard making abusive remarks directed at the former chief minister and Trinamool Congress chief.

As the situation grew tense, Banerjee briefly stopped and spoke to waiting journalists outside the court. Pointing towards the agitated crowd, she alleged that she had been assaulted during the commotion. They have assaulted me, she told media personnel before leaving the court premises.

The incident quickly triggered political reactions from the All India Trinamool Congress, which strongly criticised the behaviour of the protesting lawyers. Party spokesperson Arup Chakraborty described the incident as undemocratic and inappropriate, especially within the premises of a court.

Chakraborty said it was unfortunate that individuals who often speak about democratic values in West Bengal behaved in such a manner inside what he described as a temple

of justice. He also claimed that the treatment faced by Banerjee reflected the deteriorating democratic atmosphere in the state under the current political environment.

Earlier in the day, Banerjee had argued before a division bench headed by Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Partha Sarathi Sen. She sought judicial intervention over alleged incidents of post-poll violence in West Bengal following the declaration of Assembly election results on May 4.

During her arguments, Banerjee urged the court to act against violence allegedly targeting women and members of minority communities after the elections. She argued that immediate measures were necessary to protect vulnerable groups and restore law and order in affected areas.

However, the state government opposed her claims during the hearing. State counsel Dhiraj Trivedi rejected the allegations and argued that the accusations were baseless because no specific incidents or evidence had been presented before the court.

The developments at the High Court added fresh political tension to the already heated debate over alleged post-poll violence in West Bengal, with both ruling and opposition parties continuing to trade accusations over the law and order situation in the state.

SATHEESAN AS CM: HOW CONG DUCKED A K'TAKA REPEAT IN KERALA

In Karnataka, the Congress had prioritised MLA numbers. In Kerala, however, it chose differently

Continued from page 1

For nearly 10 days after the Congress-led UDF swept Kerala, the party looked dangerously close to replaying a familiar script. The numbers inside the legislature party appeared to favour KC Venugopal. But on Thursday, the Congress high command chose VD Satheesan as Chief Minister, a decision many within the party see as a conscious attempt to avoid the kind of lingering power struggle that has troubled the Congress government in Karnataka since 2023.

According to sources, Congress MP Sonia Gandhi was also asked for advice while deliberations were underway and she suggested the party should go with someone who is able to keep the party together in the state. Soon after, the decision was clear: Satheesan was picked as the party's Kerala CM name.

The comparison with Karnataka, however, is difficult to ignore. In both states, the Congress faced a similar question after victory: should the party reward the leader who rebuilt the organisation and led the campaign, or should it go with the candidate who enjoyed stronger backing among MLAs?

In Kerala, the Congress appears to have decided that repeating the Karnataka formula could come at a political cost.

K'taka model that continue to haunt Cong

After the Congress's emphatic victory in Karnataka in 2023, the biggest battle was not against the BJP but inside the party itself.

DK Shivakumar was widely credited with reviving the Congress organisation in Karnataka after years of setbacks. As state Congress chief, he played a central role in mobilising cadres, fundraising, coalition-building and leading the campaign machinery. Many Congress workers believed he had earned the Chief Minister's post through years of political groundwork.

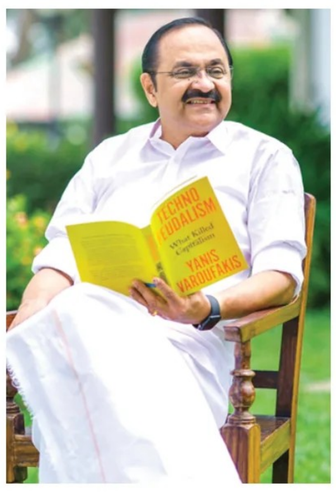
But when the time came to choose the CM, the Congress high command picked Siddaramaiah.

The main reason was legislative support. A larger section of MLAs backed Siddaramaiah, who was seen as the party's tallest mass leader in the state. Shivakumar eventually accepted the Deputy Chief Minister's role after prolonged negotiations, but reports of a "rotational CM arrangement" and continuing rivalry never fully disappeared.

Even three years later, periodic speculation over leadership change continues to surface in Karnataka politics, forcing the Congress leadership to repeatedly deny internal tensions.

That experience appears to have influenced how the Congress approached Kerala.

How Satheesan became face of Congress' Kerala revival



When the Congress suffered defeat in the 2021 Kerala Assembly election, the party leadership handed VD Satheesan the role of Leader of Opposition.

At that time, the choice itself was seen as a generational shift. Satheesan projected a more aggressive opposition style compared to the Congress's earlier leadership in Kerala. He frequently took the fight directly to the CPI(M) government over corruption allegations, governance issues, law-and-order controversies and financial management.

Over the next few years, Satheesan increasingly emerged as the public face of the UDF opposition campaign.

Congress workers across Kerala often viewed him as the leader who brought energy back into the party's state unit after years of factional fatigue. During the election campaign too, Satheesan remained at the forefront of rallies, media outreach and political messaging.

By the time the UDF returned to power, many within the Congress believed Satheesan had become inseparable from the party's comeback narrative.

Public support outweighs seniority

One major reason appears to have been public sentiment. As uncertainty over the CM choice dragged on, signs of unease began emerging within sections of the Congress cadre. Posters reportedly appeared in parts of Kerala warning the leadership against sidelining Satheesan despite his role in the UDF victory.

The concern within the party was that if the Congress overlooked the leader most associated with the victory campaign, it could demoralise workers and create the impression that grassroots political effort mattered less than organisational lobbying in Delhi.

How did Satheesan rise in Kerala politics?

* Born in 1964 in Nettoor near Kochi, Satheesan entered politics through the Kerala Students Union (KSU) before gradually moving into the Youth Congress and mainstream party structure.

* Unlike many Congress power centres built through Delhi lobbying or factional camps, Satheesan built his image largely through ground-level politics and legislative visibility.

* A lawyer by training, he became known inside the Kerala Assembly for his sharp speeches and combative style.

* Since 2001, he has continuously represented the Paravur Assembly constituency in Ernakulam district, slowly building a reputation as one of the Congress's most vocal leaders in Kerala politics.

* When the UDF lost the 2021 Kerala Assembly election to the Left Front under Pinarayi Vijayan, the Congress was facing a serious credibility problem in the state. That was when the party unexpectedly appointed Satheesan as Leader of the Opposition.

* Though many questioned the decision, but over the next five years, Satheesan completely reshaped his political image.

* He became the Congress's loudest anti-Left voice, repeatedly attacking the Vijayan government over corruption allegations, governance controversies, financial issues and law-and-order concerns.

Delhi mandates two-day work from home for govt employees

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday announced mandatory work-from-home for government employees for two days every week as part of a fuel conservation and sustainable mobility initiative.

Addressing a press conference, the Chief Minister said all Delhi government offices will implement the policy immediately. Private companies and institutions will also be advised to adopt a similar two-day work-from-home system, while the Labour Department will monitor implementation of the advisory.

The announcement comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to reduce fuel consumption and adopt environmentally sustainable practices.

As part of the new measures, the Delhi government has also reduced petrol and diesel quotas for official vehicles by 20 percent. Officials who earlier received 200 to 250 litres of fuel per month will now receive only 160 to 200 litres.

The Chief Minister further announced that ministers and senior officials will use the Delhi Metro every Monday under a campaign titled "Metro Monday." She said government departments have already begun reducing fuel expenses by limiting use of official vehicles and encouraging public transport.

Rekha Gupta also appealed to private organisations to support the initiative in order to reduce traffic congestion and fuel usage across the city.

In another symbolic move aimed at promoting sustainable mobility, the Chief Minister reduced her official convoy by nearly 60 percent. Her motorcade will now consist of only four vehicles, including two electric vehicles.

The Delhi government said the measures are part of a broader effort to encourage energy conservation, public transport usage and environmentally friendly commuting practices in the national capital.

Stalin takes responsibility for DMK defeat

CHENNAI

Accepting full responsibility for the DMK's defeat in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, MK Stalin on Thursday called for unity, introspection and sweeping organisational reforms within the party.

The meeting marked the first major organisational gathering of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam after the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance lost power in the Assembly elections to the alliance headed by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay and his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam party.

During his address, Stalin said there was no benefit in leaders blaming one another for the party's defeat. He stated that as party president, he was willing to take complete responsibility for the setback.

One is blaming another and pointing an accusing finger at someone else. There will be no end if we continue blaming one another. When I take pride in victory, I should also take responsibility for defeat. There is nothing wrong with it. It is only fair, Stalin said.

Referring to the rapid rise of TVK in Tamil Nadu politics, Stalin described the party's electoral success as a new and attractive magic tsunami that had caused major political damage in the state. However, he clarified that he was not referring to the achievement itself, but to the broader political impact it had created.

He called for unity, introspection and sweeping organisational reforms within the party

By tsunami, I do not mean achievement or adventure. I only mean that it has caused great damage. It has damaged the interests of Tamil Nadu, he said while urging party cadres to work towards regaining public trust.

Stalin emphasised that the defeat represented only a temporary electoral setback and not the end of the DMK's political future. He called on party leaders and workers to carefully analyse constituency-level failures and reconnect with the people through disciplined organisational efforts.

Highlighting the importance of unity within the party structure, Stalin reminded district secretaries that every cadre played an important role in strengthening the movement. A building stands supported by all its pillars. Everyone is important, he said, while also warning that those unwilling to work with commitment could step aside.

As part of the party's revival efforts, Stalin announced a statewide internal review process to identify the reasons behind the electoral defeat. A special committee will travel across Tamil Nadu and submit a detailed report within 20 days after gathering feedback from cadres and local leaders. The DMK chief also announced the launch of a dedicated website from Friday to collect suggestions from party workers, supporters and well-wishers regarding organisational reforms and reasons for the defeat.

Hinting at major changes within the party, Stalin said drastic changes would be introduced based on the feedback received. Ending his speech on a hopeful note, he expressed confidence that the DMK would recover politically in the future.

Tender commission scam: Jharkhand ex-min Alamgir out on bail

RANCHI

Former Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam was released from Birsa Munda Central Jail on Thursday after the Supreme Court granted him bail in the high-profile tender commission scam.

Alamgir Alam had been in judicial custody since May 2024 along with his private secretary Sanjiv Lal in connection with an alleged corruption and money laundering racket involving government tenders in Jharkhand.

The Supreme Court granted him bail earlier this week after lower courts and the Jharkhand High Court had rejected his plea for relief.

According to reports, Alam's release was delayed briefly because the Supreme Court's order was not uploaded on the official court portal on time. The required legal formalities were later completed after his wife, Nishat Alam, submitted the surety documents.

Soon after his release from jail, supporters gathered outside the prison premises and celebrated by distributing sweets and bursting firecrackers. The celebrations, however, sparked sharp reactions from opposition parties, especially the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Leader of Opposition in the Jharkhand Assembly and former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi criticised the celebrations, stating that Alam had not been acquitted of the charges but had only received interim relief due to considerations related to age and health.

In a social media post, Marandi questioned the public celebrations and remarked sarcastically that the scenes resembled the return of a freedom fighter rather than someone accused in a major corruption case. He also referred to the alleged recovery of a huge amount of cash during the investigation and questioned whether corruption and misuse of public money deserved such public celebration.

The case relates to an alleged organised tender commission racket within Jharkhand's Rural Development Department. According to the Enforcement Directorate, contractors were allegedly forced to pay nearly three percent commission in exchange for securing government tenders.

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com
Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-2420810
IFT No. 36/2025-26/2nd Call **Dt.12.05.2026**

ITEM WISE SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for RECONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE AT CH 35.20 KM AT SRIRANGAPATNA TO MALE MAHADESHWARA HILL ROAD (SH-79) IN T NARASIPURA TALUK work approved under H/A:**5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRDCL-Capital Expenses** with KW-4 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems. The **Minimum Amount Put to Tender is Rs.201.77 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs.3.03 Lakhs.** Pre bid Meeting will be held in the undersigned office **at 11.00 A.M on 16.05.2026.** Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 12.05.2026 to 20.05.2026 within 17.00 PM.** Period for completion 05 months (including monsoon) Only eligible KPWD Contractor Registered in the KPP-Portal shall participate. More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Work Department
Mysuru Division, Mysuru
DIPR/DDMYS/176/KSMCA/136/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi
SN:PRED/BGM/PB-1/TENDER-06/2026-27/621 DATED:14/05/2026

Tender Invited (E- Procurement)

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi hereby invited tender from Registered Contractors for the Item rates through kpppPortal.There are total 03 (26304/call-2, 22831/CALL-3, 26626)work have been called, Standard osf tender documents KW-3 for price of Hightest and Lowest Estimated Cost Rs. 86.00 Lakhs and Rs. 10.00 Lakh respectively and also Hightest and Lowest EMD has As Per Eprocurement for each work. The last date for Submission of any Quarries is 22-05-2026 17:28 PM, the last date for submission of tender bid is on 22-05-2026 17:28 PM. Opening of technical bid is on 25-0-2026 11-00 AM and Expected Financial bid will be opened on 25-05-2026 11:30 AM. For any other information/ clarifications please contact the below signed office, and also search internet forkppp-Portal website http://kppp-proc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
P. R. E. Division, Belagavi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-247/KSMCA/2026-27

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಾದನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 562162
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08023718487, E-mail: itstaff_ulb_mnhalli@yahoo.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮಾ.ನ.ಕಾ/ಆ.ಶಾ./ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಪಿ.ಆರ್/02/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.05.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾದನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಗೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. DMA/2026-27/IND DMA/2025-26/SE7565, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ– ರೂ.304,72,511.00, ಇಎಂಡಿ– ರೂ. 4,57,500.00, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **15.06.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 16.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ,** ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **16.06.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 17.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ,** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಮಾದನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು,
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಮಾದನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/669/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2026–27

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer

PANCHAYATH RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, CHAMARAJANAGARA-571313

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 04/2025-26 DATED: 13-05-2026
(Two Cover System)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, **Chamarajanagara** invites tender in co-ordination with e- procurement portal platform, Bangalore. Tender format as per **KW-3** through e- procurement under the Head of Account **Education Department** for **Chamarajanagara** Taluk. Date of application submission for tender document and submission of filled tender through online **Date: 14-05-2026 to 02-06-2026 upto 16.00 hours.** Last date for clarifications/queries on tender **Date: 25-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours.** date of opening of technical bid of the tender **Date: 04-06-2026 after 17.00 hours.** After the approval of Technical bid the Financial Bid will be opened. Tender Form Fee: As per e-procurement Details as belows.

Sl. No	Name of work	Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Approximate Value of work (Rs. in lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs)	Contractor Eligibility
1	ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ನ್ಯಾ. ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ಕೊಠಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸುತ್ತ ಗೋಡೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (02ನೇ ಕರೆ)	75.00	-	62297.00	Class - III & above

For more details visit website: **htpp://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chamarajangara **(Ph: 08226- 223019)** during office hours.

Executive Engineer,
PRED Division, Chamarajángara

AE Phone No: 8073339806
NO: DIPR: CHANAGAR : 108: 2026-27

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
Ph No.: 08262-220936 e-mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
Tender Notice No.:45/2025-26/2nd Call/385 D: 12.05.2026

Tender Notice - 3rd Call

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru invites Tenders through K.P.P.P. related to works of Koppa, N.R. Pura and Sringeri Taluks in Chikkamagaluru District. Max. Approx. Amount put to Tender is Rs. 50.40 lakhs. Details of capability to undertake or of having implemented the works should be attached as per Standard Tender Document KW – 3. For the said works the documents downloaded from K.P.P.P. can be filled and uploaded from 12.05.2026 to 25.05.2026 up to 5.30 PM. Technical Bid will be opened on 27.05.2026 at 5.05 PM. If possible the Financial Bid will be opened on 01.06.2026 at 11.00 AM. If this day is declared as holiday then the next day will be considered. Notice can be read on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Further details can be obtained by contacting the case worker during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru.
DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/26-27/31/223

QUICK READ

French Prez Macron faces a test next week

PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron faces a test next week when lawmakers decide whether to approve his former chief of staff to run the central bank, a nomination some critics say is part of a campaign to protect key institutions from a possible far-right election win in 2027. A rejection of Emmanuel Moulin would represent an embarrassing defeat, underlining the unpopular president's lame-duck status less than a year before his second term ends. Meanwhile, approval would likely fuel rivals' accusations that Macron is installing loyalists to top jobs who can ensure his legacy.

Senate set to convene as impeachment court on May 18

MANILA

The Philippine Senate will convene as an impeachment court on May 18 ahead of the trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, its president said on Thursday, with tensions flaring as the country's most powerful political clans face off. With former ally-turned-enemy President Ferdinand Marcos Jr limited by the constitution to a single term in office, Duterte has been the clear favourite to succeed him in 2028, but she faces a ban from holding office and removal from her post if convicted. The 24-member upper house will convene as a court on Monday to go over rules and procedures ahead of the start of a trial, which will take place.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ravishankar N, S/o Natarajan R, R/o E5-702, SNN Raj Greenbay, 1st Main Road, Electronic City Phase 2, Doddanagamangala, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560100, have changed the name of my minor daughter Riya to Riyannikka Ravishankar aged 3 years.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Satya Pennada Sahni D/o R K G Pennada Ex. W/o Vikalp Sahni R/o Villa A3-28, Windmills of Your Mind 331, 5B Epip Zone Whitefield Road North Bengaluru, Karnataka-560066, I got divorce from my Ex-Husband vide Divorce Decree No. M.C.NO. 319/2022 Dated by 02 September 2022, further I, have changed my name to Satya Pennada.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, G navratan jain S/o Ghisulalji Bhandari R/o #64 Bhandari Nikunj 2nd Floor 3rd Cross 1st Main Road Sudhamanagar, South Wilson Garden, Bangalore, Karnataka-560027, have changed my name to G navrathan bhandari.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KRISHNAMOORTHY KAILASANATHAN S/o KAILASANATHAN R/o Flat T2, 3rd Floor, No. 163, Millers The Portrait,17th Main, 11th Cross, Behind Freedom International School Playground, Sector 4, HSR Layout, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560102, have changed the name of my minor daughter K. KEERTHI alias K KEERTHI aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as KEERTHI KRISHNAMOORTHY

CH CLASSIFED
To Place Classifed ad Contact : 080-41209042

China's Xi warns Trump on Taiwan at Beijing summit

The two leaders were joined by business executives for a lavish state banquet, after meeting for two hours and 15 minutes at the start of their two-day summit.

BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping told U.S. President Donald Trump that trade negotiations between the two countries were moving in a positive direction during a high-profile summit in Beijing on Thursday. The remarks came during the opening day of a two-day summit in Beijing, marking the first visit by a sitting U.S. president to China in nearly a decade. The meeting was held at the Great Hall of the People and included an elaborate welcome ceremony featuring an honour guard and large crowds of children waving flowers and flags.

Despite ongoing tensions between Washington and Beijing, the atmosphere during the summit appeared warm and friendly. Trump praised Xi during opening remarks, calling him a great leader and suggesting the meeting could become the biggest summit ever. The two leaders reportedly held discussions for more than two hours on trade, security and regional issues.

Xi later stated that negotiations between U.S. and Chinese trade officials held in South Korea had achieved overall balanced and positive outcomes. The talks were aimed at preserving a fragile trade truce reached between the two nations last October and creating new mechanisms to support future trade and investment cooperation.

However, the Chinese president also focused heavily on the issue of Taiwan, the self-governed island that China claims as its territory. According to a Chinese government summary of the talks, Xi described Taiwan as the most sensitive and important issue in relations between the two countries. He warned that if the matter was handled improperly, it could place the entire U.S.-China relationship in an extremely dangerous situation and potentially lead to direct confrontation or conflict.

Political analyst Joe Mazur of consultancy Trivium China said Beijing had delivered strong messages on Taiwan before, but Xi's latest comments stood out for their directness. He said the warning signaled that China wanted the United States to avoid any actions that could increase tensions around the island.

Trump did not publicly comment on the Taiwan issue after the meeting. The two leaders later appeared together for photographs at the Temple of Heaven, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Beijing, as the summit continued with global attention focused on the future of U.S.-China relations.

Russia launches another mass attack on Ukraine

KYIV

President Zelenskyy said Russia had launched more than 670 attack drones, 56 missiles in the attack

Russia carried out its biggest aerial assault on Ukraine over a two-day period since the war began, targeting the capital city of Kyiv and several other regions with hundreds of drones and missiles, Ukrainian officials said on Thursday.

According to Ukrainian authorities, Russia launched more than 1,560 drones, making it one of the heaviest coordinated attacks since the start of the war in February 2022. Overnight on Thursday alone, Moscow fired over 670 attack drones and 56 missiles across Ukrainian territory.

Ukraine's air force said its air defence systems intercepted a large number of incoming weapons during the massive overnight barrage. Officials stated that 41 missiles and 652 drones were successfully shot down before reaching their intended targets. However, several strikes still caused major destruction in Kyiv and surrounding regions.

President Zelenskiy condemned the attacks and said they demonstrated that Russia had no intention of bringing the war to an end. These are definitely not the actions of those who believe the war is coming to an end, he said while urging international allies to continue supporting Ukraine's air defence systems and military capabilities.

The Ukrainian leader also appealed to partner nations not to remain silent in the face of the latest escalation. He stressed that strengthening Ukraine's ability to defend its skies remained critical as Russia intensified its aerial campaign.

Kyiv was identified as the primary target during the overnight attacks. Zelenskiy said at least 20 different locations across the capital suffered damage. Explosions were also reported in nearby areas within the Kyiv region.

Officials confirmed that at least three people were killed in the strikes, while nearly 40 others were injured, including two children. Emergency response teams were deployed across the city to search for survivors and clear damaged buildings.

Kyiv Mayor Vitalii Klitschko warned that additional victims could still be trapped beneath collapsed concrete and rubble as rescue operations continued through the day.

Images shared by local authorities showed heavily damaged residential buildings, shattered windows and smoke rising from several districts. The latest strikes came just days after Russian President Vladimir Putin said he believed the war in Ukraine was nearing an end.

Silina resigns after coalition govt collapses

CYPRUS

Latvian Prime Minister Evika Silina announced her resignation on Thursday after the collapse of her coalition government, creating political uncertainty in the Baltic nation just months before parliamentary elections scheduled for October. The resignation followed the withdrawal of support from a key coalition partner, leaving Silina without a governing majority in parliament.

In a televised statement, Silina confirmed that she would step down from office while expressing determination to remain active in politics.

I am resigning, but I am not giving up, the prime minister said during her public address.

Silina, leader of the centre-right New Unity party, had been facing increasing pressure after tensions within the coalition government intensified in recent days.

The crisis reached a breaking point when the left-wing Progressives party announced it was withdrawing support for the government, effectively stripping the ruling coalition of its parliamentary majority.The decision by the Progressives came after the dismissal of Defence Minister Andris Spruds over the weekend. Spruds, a member of the Progressives party, was removed from his post following criticism surrounding the handling of incidents involving stray Ukrainian drones entering Latvian airspace from Russia. The drone incidents had raised concerns about national security and border protection in Latvia, which shares a border with Russia and has remained highly alert due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. Political tensions escalated after opposition parties and coalition members questioned the government's response to the security breaches.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that the partnership firm, AQUARIAN CLOTHING Co., having erstwhile partners (i) Sri. K. Surendranath s/o Sri. Manickyam, (ii) Sri. K. Manjunath s/o Sri. Manickyam, and (iii) Sri. Harish Kurup s/o Sri. Balakrishna Kurup, stands dissolved by virtue of notice of dissolution issued by Sri. Harish Kurup on 17.04.2026 in terms of the Deed of Reconstitution of Partnership dated 01.12.2015. In compliance with law, this notice is being issued that, with effect from April 25, 2026, the partnership firm stands dissolved and Sri. Harish Kurup shall not be liable for any acts subsequent thereto.

Harish Kurup S/o Balakrishna Kurup
Aged about 54 years No.1, Dwaraka, Royale Habitat Colony HSR Layout, Sector II Bengaluru – 560 102.

Mass stir erupts in Havana amid blackouts, fuel crisis

HAVANA

Large protests broke out across Havana as residents faced some of the worst power outages in decades.

The demonstrations spread through several neighborhoods on the outskirts of Havana, where crowds blocked roads using burning piles of garbage, banged cooking pots and shouted slogans demanding the restoration of electricity. Protesters repeatedly chanted, Turn on the lights! and The people, united, will never be defeated! as frustration over extended blackouts boiled over.

Residents said the electricity crisis had intensified sharply since January after U.S. President Donald Trump imposed tougher economic restrictions on Cuba. The measures included a renewed embargo and threats of tariffs against countries supplying fuel to the communist-run island. Cuban officials have blamed these sanctions for worsening fuel shortages and limiting the government's ability to maintain stable electricity generation.

Many neighborhoods in Havana reportedly endured power cuts lasting more than 40 hours.

Residents described unbearable heat, spoiled food and increasing hardship, particularly for vulnerable people such as the elderly and children.

Rodolfo Alonso, a resident of the Playa district, said he joined the protests after days without electricity. Sweating in the intense heat, Alonso explained that many elderly residents in his community were suffering badly.

He said families were simply asking for a few hours of power to preserve food and manage daily life. Alonso insisted that the demonstrations were not politically motivated but driven by desperation over worsening living conditions.

In several locations, electricity was restored shortly after protests began, according to witnesses. Reuters reporters observed crowds cheering loudly when the lights returned before quickly dispersing from the streets.

Saudi warplanes struck militias in Iraq amid war

RIYADH

Saudi fighter jets bombed targets linked to powerful Tehran-backed Shi'ite militias in Iraq during the Iran war, while retaliatory strikes were also launched from Kuwait into Iraq, multiple sources familiar with the matter said.

The strikes are part of a broader pattern of military responses around the Gulf that remained largely hidden during a conflict that began with U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran and has spread to the wider Middle East.

For this report, Reuters spoke to three Iraqi security and military officials, a Western official, and two people briefed on the matter, one of them in the U.S.

The Saudi strikes were carried out by Saudi air force fighter jets on Iran-linked militia targets near the kingdom's northern border with Iraq, one Western official and the person briefed on the matter said. The Western official said some strikes took place around the time of the April 7 U.S.-Iran ceasefire.

They targeted sites from which drone and missile attacks were launched at Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, the sources said.

Citing military assessments, the Iraqi sources said rocket attacks were launched on at least two occasions from Kuwaiti territory on Iraq. One set of strikes hit militia positions in southern Iraq in April, killing several fighters and destroying a facility used by Iran-backed militia Kataib Hezbollah for communications and drone operations, they said.

Reuters could not determine whether the rockets from Kuwait were fired by the Kuwaiti armed forces or the U.S. military, which has a large presence there. The U.S. military declined to comment. The Kuwaiti information ministry and the Iraqi government did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Philippines seeking to confirm ICC suspect has fled after chaos at Senate

MANILA

Philippine authorities were seeking confirmation on Thursday of reports that a top politician wanted by the International Criminal Court had fled, a day after gunfire rang out at the Senate where he had taken refuge fearing his arrest.

Senator Ronald Bato dela Rosa, the former national police chief and top enforcer of ex-President Rodrigo Duterte's bloody war on drugs, has been under Senate protection and is wanted for crimes against humanity, the same charges Duterte is accused of.

Several sources confirmed that the Senator, Senator Bato, is no longer in the Senate premises. But we are still getting confirmation, Presidential Communications Undersecretary Claire Castro told a press conference.

Gunshots were heard inside the Senate and people there scrambled for cover, hours after dela Rosa, 64, appealed on social media for supporters to mobilise, saying law enforcement agents were coming to arrest him.

The incident sparked chaos, with a heavy presence of police and armed guards at the Senate, protests outside and more than a dozen shots fired just moments after marines were called in to bolster security.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr met security chiefs on Thursday and police said one person had been detained, with investigations underway to identify individuals who tried to enter the Senate, and bullet casings and assault rifle magazines recovered.

The person has provided names, but these still need confirmation, police spokesperson Randulf Tuano told DZBB radio.

It was unclear who fired the shots, or if dela Rosa was still in the Senate on Thursday, with speculation rife that he had slipped away overnight.

The Hague-based court unsealed a warrant on Monday for his arrest, dated November, while he has filed an emergency appeal at the Supreme Court, arguing the ICC has no jurisdiction in the Philippines after its 2019 withdrawal from the international institution.

FRAGILE CEASEFIRE

Trump seeks China's help to end Iran war

WASHINGTON

The ongoing U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran has cast a shadow over the summit between the two world leaders as diplomatic efforts to secure peace remain stalled.

More than a month after a fragile ceasefire was introduced, negotiations have failed to achieve meaningful progress, while the war continues to affect global energy markets and political stability in the Middle East.

The conflict has already claimed thousands of lives

and reshaped regional alliances. Rising oil and commodity prices linked to the fighting have also added pressure on the global economy, with concerns growing in the United States over inflation and economic uncertainty ahead of the November midterm elections.

Washington has demanded that Iran abandon its nuclear programme and stop restricting access through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical shipping lanes. Before the war began on February 28, around 20 percent of global oil and liquefied natural gas supplies moved through the narrow waterway.Iran, however, has insisted on compensation for war-related damage and demanded an end to the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports. Tehran has also called for a halt to fighting in Lebanon, where Israeli forces remain engaged in conflict with the Iran-backed Hezbollah movement. Trump has rejected Iran's demands, describing them as unacceptable.

China's role in the crisis has drawn increasing attention because of its close economic relationship with Tehran and its position as a major buyer of Iranian oil.

Analysts believe Washington hopes Beijing can use its influence to pressure Iran into reducing tensions in the Persian Gulf region.

Gavaskar: Kohli shows veterans are still best

Gavaskar hailed Kohli's masterful century against KKR, proving veteran experience remains supreme as RCB claims the top spot

NEW DELHI

Cricket icon Sunil Gavaskar has praised Virat Kohli for a "masterclass" performance that proved the veteran generation is still the best in the game. In the recent match Kohli silenced critics by smashing an unbeaten 105 against the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). His 60-ball century guided Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to a thrilling six-wicket victory and catapulted them to the top of the IPL standings.

The knock marked Kohli's ninth IPL century and his tenth overall in T20 cricket. While much of the 2026 season has focused on "Generation Next," Gavaskar noted

that Kohli's precision and control showed why experience remains unbeatable. Gavaskar remarked that while young stars are shining, the "experienced greats" are far from finished. He highlighted that Kohli is now the fastest player ever to reach 14,000 runs in T20 cricket.

A major turning point in the match occurred early on when KKR's Rovman Powell dropped a catch while Kohli was still settling in. Gavaskar pointed out that giving a player of Kohli's stature a second chance is a fatal mistake. The superstar batter made KKR pay dearly for the error, stitching together a vital 92-run partnership with Devdutt Padikkal to seal the chase.

As Kohli moves into third place in the race for the Orange Cap, the cricket world is once again in awe of his longevity. Gavaskar concluded that while records are meant to be broken, matching Kohli's consistency will take a very long time.

Sindhu and Satwik-Chirag reach Thailand quarterfinals

BANGKOK

Indian badminton legends PV Sindhu and the world-class duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty secured their spots in the Thailand Open quarterfinals. Both entries delivered dominant performances in the Round of 16, keeping India's hopes alive in this BWF Super 500 tournament.

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu needed just 28 minutes to dismiss Denmark's Amalie Schulz with a commanding 21-13, 21-15 victory. Sindhu, currently ranked 12th in the world, showed sharp movement and aggressive net play throughout the match.

However, her path to the podium gets significantly tougher from here. She is now

PV Sindhu and Satwik-Chirag storm into the Thailand Open quarterfinals, keeping India's hopes alive while facing high-stakes showdowns against elite Japanese opponents for podium spots

set for a blockbuster clash against her longtime rival and reigning world champion, Akane Yamaguchi of Japan. Sindhu holds a slight historical advantage in their head-to-head record, making this the most anticipated match of the next round.

In the men's doubles category, top seeds Satwik and Chirag continued their fine form by defeating the Malaysian pair of Bryan Jeremy Goonting and Muhammad Haikal. The Indians won in straight games, 21-12 and 21-19. As the only top seeds in the draw with previous title-winning experience at this event, they are heavy favorites to reach the finals. They will next face Japan's Takumi Nomura and Yuichi Shimogami.

While Sindhu and the doubles pair advanced, it was a day of mixed results for the rest of the Indian contingent. Earlier, Kidambi Srikanth fell in a hard-fought three-game battle against Su Li-yang, while young talent Devika Sihag was eliminated by Thailand's Pitchamon Opatniputh. All eyes now turn to the marquee quarterfinals as India's veterans aim for gold.

Frederic Soyez named Indian junior hockey coach

NEW DELHI

Hockey India has announced the appointment of Frederic Soyez as the new head coach for the junior men's national team. The Frenchman, a highly respected figure in European hockey, arrives with over 30 years of experience as both a prolific player and an elite coach. He replaces Indian legend P.R. Sreejesh, whose successful coaching term ended in December 2025.

Soyez's resume is packed with top-tier achievements. He represented France nearly 200 times as a player and later coached the national teams of both France and Spain. Notably, he has led teams through three Olympic Games, including the recent Paris 2024 Olympics. Under his guid-

ance, Spain won a silver medal at the 2019 European Championships, and he recently led the French U18 squad to a silver finish in 2025.

This appointment is part of a bigger plan to prepare India for the 2036 Olympics. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey explained that Soyez will help build a strong "pathway" for young athletes. By bringing in global experts, the organization hopes to create a consistent playing style that helps players move smoothly from junior levels to the senior national team.

A key part of the strategy is for Soyez to work alongside Indian coaches to share his international knowledge. This collaborative approach aims to make India's hockey system more self-reliant and competitive on the world stage. Officials believe Soyez's ability to nurture young talent will be the secret weapon in building a deeper, more powerful talent pool for the future.

Flintoff replaces Trevor Bayliss at Sydney Thunder

NEW DELHI

England cricket legend Andrew Flintoff is reportedly set to take over as the head coach of the Sydney Thunder for the upcoming Big Bash League (BBL) season. The former star all-rounder has emerged as the top choice to replace Trevor Bayliss, whose five-year term ended after the team struggled with inconsistent results, including a bottom-place finish in the 2025-26 season. This move marks Flintoff's first major coaching role in an overseas T20 league. Over the past year, he has been building his coaching resume by working with the England Lions and leading the Northern Superchargers in "The Hundred." His familiarity with Australian conditions is a major plus, as he previously played for the Brisbane Heat during the final stages of his professional playing career back in 2014.

If the appointment is confirmed, Flintoff will step into a challenging situation. One of his first big tasks will involve managing a leadership crisis within the team. The position of current captain and veteran opener David Warner is under serious scrutiny following a recent legal issue. Warner is expected to appear in court on June 24 regarding a drink-driving charge, leaving the team's captaincy in a state of uncertainty.

Fans are excited to see if Flintoff can bring his famous "Ashes-winning" energy to the Thunder dugout.

Urvil's "150-sixes-a-day" fuel CSK success

NEW DELHI

Long before Urvil Patel became the talk of the IPL, he was a silent warrior in Palampur. While others rested, the Gujarat wicketkeeper-batter was at the crease by 7:00 AM, refusing to leave until he had smashed 150 to 200 sixes. Now that relentless "150-sixes-a-day" regimen has transformed him into Chennai Super Kings' newest sensation.

Urvil's rise is a story of grit meeting opportunity. Stepping in after Ayush Mhatre's injury, he recently stunned the world by hitting a 13-ball fifty, the joint fastest in IPL history against Lucknow Super Giants. His explosive 65 off 23 balls didn't just keep CSK's playoff dreams alive - it brought a fresh, aggressive energy to a team traditionally known for its calm control.

His coach, Prakash Patani, recalls Urvil as a grounded student who monitors his diet strictly and treats preparation as a sacred duty. Despite the fame, Urvil remains the same humble boy who grew up in a family of schoolteachers. His success is deeply personal, too. Upon reaching his milestone fifty, he revealed a note from his pocket dedicated to his father, proving his heart is as strong as his bat swing.

Experts believe this is just the beginning. With the backing of MS Dhoni and a natural gift for clean hitting, Urvil is no longer just a replacement player. He is a match-winner. As his coach says, more "gifts" are coming, and a blue India jersey may soon follow the yellow one.

Manchester City beat Crystal Palace to pressure leaders Arsenal

MANCHESTER

Manchester City refused to back down in the Premier League title race, securing a vital 3-0 victory over Crystal Palace. The win keeps the pressure on league leaders Arsenal, narrowing the gap to just two points with only two games remaining in the season.

The deadlock was broken in the 32nd minute when Phil Foden delivered a moment of magic. His clever flick found Antoine Semenyo, who calmly slotted the ball into the bottom corner. Foden remained the architect of Palace's downfall just eight minutes later, setting up Omar Marmoush. Marmoush controlled the pass, spun past the defense, and beat goalkeeper Dean Henderson to make it 2-0 before halftime.

As the second half unfolded, City focused on control, eventually adding a third goal in the 84th minute. Rayan Cherki provided the assist for Savinho, who finished clinically to seal the three points.

After the match, manager Pep Guardiola heaped praise on Foden's creativity. He noted that against a defensive "low block," a team needs a "spark" that isn't found on a tactical board. Guardiola specifically lauded Foden's ability to create something from nothing in tight spaces. While City currently sits on 77 points behind Arsenal's 79, the race is out of their hands. They must win their final fixtures and hope Arsenal stumbles against Burnley or Crystal Palace.

PWL stars dominate senior open ranking tournament

GONDA

The Pro Wrestling League (PWL) continues to prove its worth as a powerhouse for Indian wrestling. At the recently concluded Senior Open Ranking tournament held in Gonda, athletes from the league's fifth season stole the show. Their success highlights how elite competition helps local talent prepare for the world stage.

In the men's freestyle events, Sagar from the UP Dominators grabbed gold in the 57kg category. However, the most inspiring story came from Yash Tushir. Representing Maharashtra Kesari, the former World Junior bronze medalist made a roaring comeback after a long struggle with knee and shoulder injuries. He defeated five opponents to secure gold in the 74kg division, proving he is back to his best.

Other PWL stars also climbed the podium. Naveen of the Mumbai Dangals won gold in the 79kg category, while veteran star Deepak Punia dominated the 92kg division. In the women's matches, Anjali of the Delhi Dangal Warriors secured a silver medal in the 62kg category, boosting her chances for national team selection.

PWL CEO Akhil Gupta noted that the league's mix of Olympians and rising stars creates a perfect training ground. The numbers back this up - PWL wrestlers have earned 11 of India's 17 recent Asian Championship medals. As the winners from Gonda move toward World Championship trials, the league's role in shaping India's wrestling future has never been clearer. These athletes are no longer just competing, they are leading the way for the nation.

DC Expand Global Footprint with New Cricket Academy in Seattle

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Capitals (DC) have taken a massive leap in their global expansion by opening a brand-new cricket academy in Seattle, USA. This move brings the Indian Premier League franchise's world-class coaching and technical expertise to the Pacific Northwest, marking a significant milestone for cricket's growth in the United States.

The new centre is a partnership with the Seattle Thunderbolts Academy, a successful local organization that won the Minor League Cricket Championship in 2022. By joining forces, DC aims to provide a structured pathway for over 200 young cricketers already training in the Thunderbolts system. The facility boasts impressive

infrastructure, including six cricket grounds and professional turf wickets, ensuring high-quality practice sessions.

Delhi Capitals CEO Sunil Gupta emphasized that this expansion is about more than just a brand, it is about building a sustainable ecosystem. Young players in Seattle will now have access to the same training curriculum used in India, along with performance monitoring and exposure to international training camps. This direct link to a major IPL franchise offers local talent a clear route to professional levels.

For the Seattle Thunderbolts, the collaboration brings elite standards to their grassroots community. Co-owner Phani Chitneni noted that the US is one of the fastest-growing cricket markets, and professional guidance is essential for its success. With existing academies in London and Canada, Delhi Capitals has now firmly established North America as a vital hub for the next generation of cricket stars.

Honda Gets Huge Cash Boost for Engines

LONDON

Honda is set to receive a massive $19 million financial boost to fix its struggling Formula One engines. The famous manufacturer, which now exclusively supplies power units to the Aston Martin team, has fallen significantly behind its rivals in the 2026 season. New rules from the FIA, the sport's governing body, will now allow Honda to spend extra money to catch up with top performers like Mercedes.

The help comes through a special system called "Additional Development and Upgrade Opportunities." This rule acts as a safety net for engine makers who find themselves at least 2% behind the best engine on the grid. Because Honda's performance has been far below expectations, they are being given "cost cap relief." This means they can spend more than the usual limit on research and repairs without being penalized.

So far in 2026, the partnership between Honda and Aston Martin has been rocky. The cars have faced major issues, including intense vibrations and trouble even finishing races. It wasn't until the fourth race in Miami that both drivers, Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll, finally managed to cross the finish line, though they were near the back of the pack.

While Mercedes boss Toto Wolff agrees that struggling teams need help, he warned against letting them "leapfrog" the leaders. He believes the rules should only help teams bridge the gap, not give them an unfair advantage. After the upcoming Canadian Grand Prix, officials will finalize exactly how much extra Honda can spend to get back into the race.

QUICK READ

TSMC to issue USD 584 million in green bonds

TAIWAN

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) has announced that it will issue green bonds worth USD 584 million (about NT$18.4 billion) to fund environmental protection and sustainable infrastructure projects. The bonds will be offered in two tranches with different maturities and interest rates, as part of the company's broader financing plan approved earlier this year. The proceeds from the issuance will be used to support green building initiatives, energy efficiency improvements, and other sustainability-focused investments aligned with TSMC's long-term goal of achieving g net-zero emissions. The company has been a major issuer of green bonds in Taiwan since 2020 and continues to expand its environmental financing efforts alongside its semiconductor production growth.

Pvt placements to 'dominate' GCC funding channels

NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings has said that banks in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) may increasingly depend on private placements and syndicated loans if the Iran-related conflict continues. The agency noted that ongoing geopolitical tensions could tighten liquidity conditions and keep public debt issuance below 2025 levels. Despite this, GCC banks are still supported by strong capital buffers and likely backing from regional authorities. Fitch added that private funding channels may dominate if instability persists, while public market issuance could recover if conditions improve. Investor demand remains strong, as seen in recent oversubscribed bond deals, and overall credit risks remain manageable.

Packaging seen key driver for Indian export growth

MUMBAI

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said India must focus on "packaging for the world" as global demand for Indian products continues to grow. Speaking at the Indian Institute of Packaging's Diamond Jubilee event in Mumbai, he highlighted that India's expanding network of Free Trade Agreements and growing role in global trade are creating strong opportunities for sectors such as packaging. He said packaging is becoming increasingly important for improving the global acceptance of Indian goods, including food products, pharmaceuticals, defence items and FMCG goods. Prasada added that India is producing world-class products across industries, and quality packaging will play a key role in boosting exports and strengthening India's global trade position.

India enters EU draft list for aquaculture exports

India's inclusion in the EU aquaculture export draft list boosts seafood trade prospects and ensures continued market access stability

NEW DELHI

India has been included in the revised draft list published by the European Union (EU) for continued export of aquaculture products, a move that is expected to ensure uninterrupted seafood shipments to the European market beyond September 2026.

The decision is seen as a major boost for India's seafood export sector, particularly farmed shrimp, which forms the bulk of shipments to the EU. The Commerce Ministry said the inclusion reflects confidence in India's regulatory systems, residue monitoring mechanisms, and food safety standards.

According to the ministry, once the revised regulation is formally adopted by the European Commission, Indian aquaculture exports will continue without disruption.

The earlier EU regulation issued in October 2024 had not included India in the list of approved third countries for exporting animal-origin food products after September 2026, raising concerns among exporters.

The EU remains a key market for India's seafood industry. In 2025–26, it was the third-largest destination, accounting for 18.94% of total export value, worth about $1.593 billion.

Export performance also showed strong growth compared to the previous year, with value rising by 41.45% and quantity increasing by 38.29%.

The government noted that sustained efforts by agencies such as the Marine Products Export Development Authority (Marine Products Export Development Authority) and the Export Inspection Council (Export Inspection Council) have helped strengthen compliance systems. These include improvements in veterinary drug monitoring, antimicrobial residue control, traceability, and quality assurance in aquaculture production and processing.

The development follows continued technical engagement between India and the EU, aimed at aligning regulatory standards and ensuring safe food exports.

Officials said the inclusion is expected to support export growth, generate employment, and enhance foreign exchange earnings from the seafood sector while reinforcing India's position as a reliable global supplier.

India's EV battery demand is projected to rise sharply, driven by rapid electric vehicle adoption and expanding domestic manufacturing ecosystem

E2W lead India's EV market with strong adoption

NEW DELHI

India's electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem is expected to see a major surge in battery demand, with requirements projected to rise nearly 10 times—from 20 GWh in 2025 to 200 GWh by 2032—according to a new industry report by the India Energy Storage Alliance (India Energy Storage Alliance).

The report highlights that the country's EV sector is entering a key growth phase, where policy-driven adoption is evolving into a full-scale industrial ecosystem. This includes rapid expansion in batteries, motors, power electronics, advanced chemistries, and localised supply chains.

It notes that India's EV sales crossed 2.5 million units in 2025, with electric two-wheelers leading the market at about 1.5 million units, followed by around 0.7 million electric three-wheelers. The next major growth phase is expected to come from electric passenger vehicles and light commercial fleets. Improved battery economics, expanding charging infrastructure, and wider participation from original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) are expected to drive faster adoption of electric cars. The report also points out that commercial mobility—especially urban logistics, public transport, and fleet operations—is increasingly shifting toward electrification due to lower total cost of ownership.

Summary

- Battery demand expected to grow rapidly
- EV sales crossing new national milestones
- Two-wheelers leading India's electric adoption
- Passenger EVs driving next growth phase
- Local manufacturing and supply chains expand

Industry leaders quoted in the report said India's EV market is transitioning from policy support to a more mature manufacturing-driven industry. This shift is expected to open opportunities in component localisation, recycling systems, and advanced battery technologies.

The findings will be featured in the upcoming India Energy Storage Week 2026, scheduled for July 8–10 at Yashobhoomi (IICC), which is expected to host over 200 exhibitors and more than 10,000 global industry participants.

Experts believe that the next phase of India's EV growth will depend heavily on building resilient supply chains and strengthening domestic manufacturing capabilities to support the rapidly expanding demand for batteries and related components.

Tesla opens first experience centre in B'luru

NEW DELHI

Tesla has inaugurated its first experience centre in India's tech hub of Bengaluru, located in Whitefield, marking a key expansion step for the company in the country's growing electric mobility market.The new facility allows customers to explore the Tesla Model Y and the newly introduced Model Y L, a six-seater electric SUV positioned for family buyers. The Model Y L is priced from ₹61.99 lakh (ex-showroom) and offers an estimated driving range of up to 681 km (WLTP), along with acceleration from 0–100 kmph in about five seconds.

The company also highlighted that the Model Y L provides up to 2,539 litres of cargo space with a three-row seating configuration. It has received top safety ratings from global agencies including NHTSA, IIHS, Euro NCAP, and ANCAP, reinforcing its positioning in the premium EV segment.

Tesla further announced the rollout of its after-sales service network in Whitefield to support customers in Bengaluru. This move is aimed at strengthening ownership experience as demand for electric vehicles rises in India.

The company said its Supercharging network will enable the Model Y L to gain up to 288 km of range in just 15 minutes. Home charging options will also be made available to improve convenience for users.

Bookings for the Model Y L have already opened via the company's official website. With this launch, Tesla now operates experience centres in Bengaluru, Mumbai's BKC, Delhi's Aerocity, and Gurugram, expanding its physical presence across major Indian cities.

The entry into Bengaluru reflects growing competition and interest in India's premium EV market, particularly among urban consumers seeking high-performance electric SUVs.

RBI to sell long-term bonds via auction

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (Reserve Bank of India) has scheduled an underwriting auction for Government of India securities worth ₹32,000 crore on May 15. The entire notified amount will be covered under the underwriting process, which is part of the government's regular market borrowing programme.

According to the RBI, the auction will include two key securities: the 6.36% Government Security maturing in 2031 with a notified amount of ₹21,000 crore, and a new Government Security maturing in 2066 with a notified amount of ₹11,000 crore. The sale will be conducted through a multiple price-based auction method, allowing participants to submit bids at different price levels for long-term government bonds.

The underwriting arrangement follows the scheme introduced on November 14, 2007, which defines Minimum Underwriting Commitment (MUC) and Additional Competitive Underwriting (ACU) obligations for Primary Dealers. These Primary Dealers play a crucial role in ensuring smooth absorption of government debt in the market by committing to purchase securities even in volatile conditions.

The RBI has instructed Primary Dealers to submit their bids electronically through its Core Banking Solution platform, known as the E-Kuber system. The bidding window for the ACU auction will remain open between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on the day of the auction.

Under the system, underwriting commissions earned by Primary Dealers are credited to their current accounts on the day of security issuance. This structure incentivizes market participation while ensuring successful completion of government borrowing programmes.

The auction reflects the government's continued reliance on domestic borrowing to finance fiscal requirements while maintaining liquidity in the bond market. By involving Primary Dealers and using a structured underwriting mechanism, the RBI aims to ensure stability, transparency, and efficiency in government securities issuance.

India highlights structured textile recovery, reuse systems

Govt rejects claims India is textile waste dumping ground, citing strong domestic recycling systems, high recovery rates, and growing sustainability-focused industry reforms.

FACT-FILE

- Government rejects claim India is textile dumping ground
- Says 97% pre-consumer waste is recycled domestically
- Most textile waste generated within India itself
- Recycling sector valued at around ₹22,000 Cr annually
- Industry shifting toward cleaner regulated sustainable practices

NEW DELHI

The Government of India has rejected international media portrayals describing the country as a "dumping ground" for textile waste, stating that such claims are misleading and do not reflect the reality of its large and structured recycling ecosystem. The Ministry of Textiles said India operates one of the world's most extensive textile recovery and recycling networks, supported by long-established systems of reuse, repurposing, and material recovery. It added that recent foreign reports highlighting clusters such as Panipat selectively focused on environmental and labour concerns while ignoring improvements in regulation, sustainability practices, and technology adoption.

According to government data, India generates about 7,073 kilo tonnes of textile waste annually. Citing the "Mapping of Textile Waste Value Chain in India 2026" study, the ministry stated that nearly 97% of pre-consumer textile waste generated during manufacturing is recycled within the country.

The government further clarified that over 90% of the approximately 7.8 million tonnes of textile waste handled annually originates domestically, while imported waste accounts for only around 7%. This, it said, contradicts the narrative that India primarily absorbs textile waste from Western fast-fashion markets.

A report by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) estimates that the textile waste recycling ecosystem contributes around ₹22,000 crore annually to the economy. The sector not only supports livelihoods but also plays a significant role in resource recovery and circular economy practices.

The government also referenced a study by the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, based on data from the Panipat recycling cluster, which found that textile recycling can reduce environmental impacts such as greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel use by up to 40% compared to virgin fibre production.

While acknowledging challenges in post-consumer waste management, informal sector operations, and worker safety, the ministry said the industry is gradually moving toward greater formalisation and cleaner technologies. It added that regulatory bodies, including the National Green Tribunal (National Green Tribunal), continue to enforce environmental compliance across units.

Two-wheeler sales surge 28.4% across India

NEW DELHI

India's automobile sector recorded strong growth in April 2026, with passenger vehicle dispatches rising 25.4% year-on-year to 4,37,312 units, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers).

Two-wheeler sales also showed robust momentum, increasing 28.4% to 18,72,691 units, while three-wheeler dispatches surged 32.8% to 65,668 units. Overall production across passenger vehicles, two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and quadricycles reached 29,22,427 units in April, reflecting broad-based industry expansion.

Industry officials noted that April marked a strong start to FY 2026–27, continuing the momentum from the second half of the previous financial year. Passenger vehicles recorded their highest-ever monthly sales for April, supported by sustained consumer demand, improved supply conditions, and inventory build-up at dealerships.

According to SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon, both passenger vehicles and two-wheelers posted double-digit growth, with three-wheelers also achieving record sales. He highlighted that the strong performance reflects steady demand across segments despite concerns over rising global commodity prices, particularly due to geopolitical disruptions in West Asia. The passenger vehicle segment alone saw consistent expansion, while the two-wheeler category remained the primary volume driver. Urban and rural demand both contributed to the growth, with retail data showing continued traction in entry-level and commuter segments.

INPUT PRESSURE

Global Brent crude spike drives domestic fuel inflation

NEW DELHI

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation in India rose sharply to 8.3% in April 2026, compared with 3.88% in March, mainly due to a steep increase in fuel and energy-related prices, according to industry analysis.

The sharp rise was largely driven by higher costs of crude petroleum, natural gas, petrol, and diesel, which significantly pushed up the Fuel and Power segment. Inflation in this group surged to 24.71% in April, a major jump from just 1.05% in the previous month. Crude petroleum and natural gas prices alone recorded a sharp increase of 67.18%, while petrol and diesel inflation stood at 32.40% and 25.19% respectively.

Industry body PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) noted that global Brent crude prices also spiked during the period due to geopolitical tensions, supply disruptions, and tightening global energy markets, further impacting domestic fuel costs.

Primary Articles inflation rose to 9.17%, driven by higher prices of crude oil, natural gas, food items, and minerals. Meanwhile, Manufactured Products inflation also strengthened to 4.62%, reflecting widespread cost increases across sectors such as basic metals, chemicals, textiles, machinery, and food products.

On a monthly basis, the overall WPI increased by 3.86% in April over March, with fuel and power alone rising 18.22% month-on-month, indicating strong short-term cost pressures across the economy.

Within manufacturing, basic metals inflation rose to 7.00%, textiles to 7.30%, and chemicals and chemical products to 5.09%, highlighting broad-based input cost escalation across industrial supply chains.

The provisional WPI index for all commodities stood at 167.0 in April 2026, up from 160.8 in March. The final inflation figure for February 2026 was revised to 2.26%.

Economists noted that future inflation trends will depend heavily on global energy price movements, commodity markets, and supply chain stability, with fuel costs expected to remain a key driver of wholesale inflation in the coming months.

Dr. Nataraja's TikluRama novel heads to cinema

The heartwarming and eco-conscious novel TikluRama, written by Dr. Nataraja, is making its way to the silver screen. In a grand celebration held at Mantri Mall, the book was officially released to the public while the film adaptation is already 40 percent complete. The event was attended by several distinguished guests, including Padmashree Dr. Doddarangegowda and actor-director K. Suchendra Prasad, who offered their best wishes to the production team.

Directed by Manjukavi, the film stars Dr. Rajveer in the lead role. The story carries a deep environmental message, focusing on the beauty of nature and the importance of rural life. Director Manjukavi emphasized that the book is meant to inspire change in people by teaching them how to care for the environment. Interestingly, the film features actor Suchendra Prasad in the role of an MLA, and the director hinted that a unique new title for the movie might be announced soon.

Dr. Rajveer, who is also an engineer, shared his personal journey of being inspired by literary legends during his school days. He explained that the story is rooted in the real-world knowledge he gained through government service. Meanwhile, Suchendra Prasad praised the book for its ability to "soothe the mind" and remove mental clutter through its charming rural setting. Produced by Karishma-Shryavya Combines, the movie features a strong supporting cast including Jahangir and Girish. As the book hits shelves, excitement is building for this meaningful story to finally come alive in theaters.

Exclusive rights secured for ALLU ARJUN'S style

The creators of the upcoming film Raaka are taking a bold stand to protect star Allu Arjun's unique style. In a rare move for Indian cinema, the makers plan to legally guard the film's signature dance steps and gestures. This strategy aims to stop other businesses from using the actor's famous movements for their own profit without permission.

This decision follows the massive global success of the movie Pushpa. In that film, Allu Arjun's "Srivalli" dance step and specific hand gestures became an instant viral sensation. While fans loved them, many companies used those iconic looks in advertisements and unofficial campaigns. This time, the team wants to keep the branding rights strictly under their control to avoid such exploitation.

The protection covers everything from character styling to digital recreations. The team is particularly worried about AI-generated content and fake ads using the actor's likeness. Interestingly, Allu Arjun recently went to the Delhi High Court himself. He requested legal protection for his "personality rights," which includes his voice, face, and overall identity. He wants to ensure that no one can use his image for commercial gain without his consent.

Directed by the hitmaker Atlee, Raaka is already one of the most talked-about movies in the country. By protecting these creative details, the producers are treating the film's choreography like a valuable invention. As the hype grows, the industry is watching how this legal shield will change the way movie stars and studios manage their famous brands.

Choreographer turns director for new crime thriller

The upcoming Kannada film Vicharane has reached a major milestone with the successful completion of its dubbing phase. Presented by S. Ramesh under the Yasha Films banner and produced by Bhagya, the project is now moving quickly toward its official release. The film marks a significant career shift for Akul, a well-known choreographer with nearly 200 movies to his credit, who has now stepped into the director's chair.

In this new venture, Akul has not only directed the film but also handled the story, screenplay, and dialogues. The plot is inspired by real-life events the director witnessed four years ago, giving the story a grounded yet commercial feel. The narrative follows a hopeful young man who moves to the city in search of a better life. However, he soon finds himself trapped in a web of urban struggles. The film unfolds as a gritty crime thriller, tracking his intense fight to overcome these dangerous hurdles.

The movie features Madenoor Manu, famous from the show Comedy Khiladigalu, who is taking on his second role as a leading man. Starring opposite him is Farheena, a talented theater artist from Mysore. The supporting cast includes Mahesh Siddu, playing a police officer, alongside veteran actors like Balrajawadi and Nagendra Arasu. With music by Manju Mahadeva and lyrics by Pramod Maravanthe, the film is packed with creative talent. The makers have confirmed that Vicharane will be submitted to the censor board very soon for final certification.

Major studio to ship Ram Charan film

The powerhouse production house Hombale Films, famous for global hits like KGF and Kantara, has announced a major move into international movie distribution. For its first big step abroad, the studio has partnered with "Mega Power Star" Ram Charan for his upcoming movie, Peddi. This marks a turning point for the banner as it seeks to bring local stories to a global stage.

Hombale Films has built a massive reputation for creating large-scale movies that appeal to people across different cultures and languages. By launching their own overseas distribution wing, they plan to take direct control of how their films reach fans in foreign countries. Industry experts believe this move will give Peddi a massive advantage, ensuring the movie gets a wide and powerful release in theaters worldwide.

The film is directed by Buchi Babu Sana and has already grabbed public attention with its gritty action and Ram Charan's dramatic physical transformation. Adding to the excitement is the fact that the soundtrack is composed by the legendary Oscar winner A.R. Rahman. The combination of a top-tier star, a hit-making studio, and world-class music has created a huge buzz in the film industry.

Director apologizes as financial issues stall Karuppu

The highly anticipated release of the movie Karuppu, starring Suriya, hit a major snag, leaving fans heartbroken. Due to old financial debts held by the producers, screenings were canceled across the region. This sudden halt sparked confusion at theaters as crowds were turned away.

In a deeply moving video that has now gone viral, the film's director, RJ Balaji, broke down in tears while addressing the situation. Clearly overwhelmed by the day's events, the filmmaker apologized to the public for the unexpected chaos. He looked visibly shaken as he spoke about the hard work put into the project and the pain of seeing its debut stalled by money issues.

"I am truly sorry. This should not have happened," Balaji said during his emotional message. He told fans that he never expected such a hurdle on release day.

VIJAY ACTS TO FIX JANA NAYAGAN HURDLES

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and superstar Vijay has personally intervened to rescue his final film, Jana Nayagan, from a series of release nightmares. The massive ₹500 crore project has been stuck in limbo for months, facing strict censorship hurdles and a devastating online leak that shook the industry.

In a power move, Vijay reportedly summoned producer Venkat K. Narayana to return to Chennai immediately. The producer was attending the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in France but was asked to fly back to handle the film's final release steps. Vijay wants to ensure the movie, which is expected to be his last before he focuses entirely on his political duties, finally reaches his waiting fans.

The film, directed by H. Vinoth, missed its original board holiday release because the censor flagged its sensitive political themes. Officials worried the story might influence voters, leading to endless reviews and delays. Adding to the crisis, a high-quality version of the movie was stolen and leaked online in April. This act of piracy caused the film's digital value to crash, with streaming offers reportedly dropping by millions of dollars.

Despite these setbacks, the star-studded film featuring Bobby Deol and Pooja Hegde, is now back on track. With the Chief Minister himself taking charge of the situation, the industry expects the legal and technical issues to be cleared soon. For fans, this intervention is a huge relief, signaling that the "Thalapathy's" grand cinematic farewell will finally grace the big screen as planned.

Nolan explains Travis Scott's bold movie role

Famous director Christopher Nolan has finally shared why he chose rapper Travis Scott for a role in his new historical movie, The Odyssey. The decision had caused quite a stir among fans and experts, but Nolan believes the musician is the perfect fit to bring an ancient Greek tale to life.

Nolan explained that Scott was cast to play a "bard", a person who tells stories through song. The director sees a strong link between the ancient tradition of oral poetry and modern rap music. He wanted to show that the story of Odysseus was originally passed down by voice for generations, much like how rappers tell stories. Nolan told reporters that Scott's musical background helps bridge the gap between the past and the present.

In a recent trailer, Scott is seen telling the dramatic story of the Trojan War to a character played by Tom Holland. While this is Scott's first time acting for Nolan, the two worked together before on the music for the movie Tenet. Nolan has always praised the rapper's deep understanding of how music and storytelling work together.

The film features a massive cast of stars, including Matt Damon, Anne Hathaway, and Zendaya.

Madonna, Shakira and BTS headline FIFA final

In a historic move, FIFA announced that music legends Madonna, Shakira, and BTS will headline the first-ever halftime show during a World Cup Final. This Super Bowl-style concert will take place on July 19 at MetLife Stadium. While the tournament usually features opening and closing ceremonies, this marks the first time a massive musical act will perform during the final match's break.

The announcement came through a fun video featuring Chris Martin of Coldplay, who is helping curate the event alongside characters from Sesame Street. The show is expected to last 11 minutes and aims to celebrate global unity. More importantly, the event serves a higher purpose being, it aims to raise $100 million for the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund to help children access schools and sports worldwide.

The lineup brings together three generations of pop power. Madonna is expected to showcase visuals from her upcoming July album, Confessions II. Shakira, a veteran of football music since her 2010 hit "Waka Waka," will likely debut her new song featuring Burna Boy. For BTS, this is their biggest stage since reuniting after military service and topping the charts with their latest album, ARIRANG.

This bold move follows FIFA's recent trend of blending top-tier entertainment with sports. With Katy Perry and others set for the opening ceremonies across North America, the 2026 World Cup is shaping up to be the biggest entertainment spectacle in history. Expect fans to be as focused on the stage as they are on the field.

Golmaal 5 officially underway after viral teaser

Director Rohit Shetty has sparked a wave of nostalgia by celebrating the 20th anniversary of his hit comedy, Golmaal: Fun Unlimited. To mark the occasion, the filmmaker shared a viral video recreating one of the most famous scenes from the 2006 classic. The clip features original stars Arshad Warsi and Sharman Joshi bringing back the chaotic energy that first made audiences fall in love with the franchise.

The recreated footage mirrors the legendary car chase where Arshad's character, Madhav, and a disguised Sharman Joshi speed through the streets. By blending the original shots with new 2026 visuals, Shetty took fans on a trip down memory lane. The director's post included a promising caption "We promise you'll relive those happy days very soon... filming in progress." This confirms that the long-awaited fifth installment is officially on the way.

Since its release two decades ago, Golmaal has become a staple of Indian pop culture, known for its quirky humor and unforgettable characters like "Vasooli Bhai." Actor Arshad Warsi joined in the celebration, noting that despite the years, the spirit of the film remains unchanged.

While many details about the new movie are still secret, Shetty recently revealed a massive surprise, superstar Akshay Kumar will join the regular cast for this next chapter. With the original team reunited and new faces joining the madness, fans are eagerly waiting to return to the world of laughter that started twenty years ago.

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Vihaan Media #85/J, Industrial suburb 2nd stage, Yeshwantpur Extension,Bangalore-560022, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.